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WESTSIDE Football

TOUGH TACTICS . . . it takes a lot to get Eagles skipper John Worsfold under the thumb, but football's newest character, Lord Eagle, shows that he has the capacity to do just that. The Eagles mascot — sponsored by the Lords Indoor Sports and Health Centre as part of a new sponsorship deal with the West Coast club — has a firm grip on Worsfold and dashing Eagles forward Brett Heady at a training session this week. However, the co-operative Eagles duo are sure to shake off the tag by Lord Eagle as they get closer to AFL bouncedown on Saturday, March 26 when they take on Essendon at Subiaco Oval

FOOTY'S MR KNOW-ALL
John K. Watts reveals his secrets

EMU EXPORT CUP
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Barnard stakes claim

HAWTHORN'S East Perth recruit Paul Barnard is given a good chance of playing in the Hawks opening Foster's Cup clash on Saturday night despite nagging injury and illness.

Laid low with a bout of tonsillitis last week, Barnard didn't make it to Glenferrie Oval once for training. But the Hawks hierarchy say that won't be held against him.

He did well to recover sufficiently to play two good quarters for Hawthorn's B-team against Essendon last weekend and has not been ruled out of a Foster's Cup berth.

"With four on the bench,

you've got that bit of flexibility with the team," said Hawthorn football manager John Hook.

"He's a big strong lad who has done everything right up till now.

"He's very keen and his attitude has been excellent."

BACK COMPLAINT

Barnard is also working hard to throw off a back problem that accompanied him from WA, but it hasn't greatly hindered his pre-season progress.

He played well against St Kilda at Waverley in his new club's first practice match and alternated between centre-half-back and centre-half-forward last Saturday.

Determined to do well after two seasons with the Royals, Barnard has had to live with the disappointment of not being drafted despite catching the eye of talent scouts as a raw youngster playing with Carey Park.

At 21 years and with a State appearance to his credit, Barnard was 32nd choice overall in last November's draft and finds himself part of the new-look Hawthorn.

Though it was only a practice match, the Hawks demolished Essendon and an end-of-season clean-out, which saw the departure of big-name players like Tony Hall, Dermott Brereton and Gary Ayres, doesn't appear to have caused any permanent damage.

CLUB RUMOURS PRESENTS

Summertime Footy

GOSSIP

6PR's new voice

RADIO 6PR have pulled off the recruiting coup of the season by naming Eagles coach Mick Malthouse as a regular member of their 1994 panel.

Malthouse will have a regular Tuesday afternoon segment with Gary Carvolth, talking about football issues in general, Eagles prospects — and taking talk-back calls.

The move signals a Malthouse return to the airwaves two seasons after sharing the breakfast spot on Radio 6IX with current Channel Seven commentator, Dennis Cometti.

Malthouse joins a 6PR panel that includes Gerard Neesham, Mal Brown, Trevor Sprigg, Percy Johnson, Brad Hardie and Keith Slater, with Carvolth as host.

He was a special guest in last Saturday's sports show, discussing a wide range of topics, including suggestions that there was room in the side for a number of new faces — and how an increased interchange bench would prolong the careers of players.

Changing faces

TALK about the changing face of football — how's this for a change of face on the playing arena?

The short-haired fit-looking youngster in the East Perth guernsey is none other than seasoned cam-

paigner Dean Bertram, who is shaping up for a top season after an injury-free summer build-up.

The new-look is part of Bertram's fresh approach to his 1994 campaign — and he hopes a regular berth in the centre will be part of his new image.

And talking about new looks... how about former East Fremantle mop-haired rover Brad Rowe with a short-back-and-sides?

The dashing goalkicker was instrumental in Collingwood's one-pointer over North Melbourne in Saturday's Foster's Cup clash — prompting Channel 7 commentator Bruce McAvaney to comment on how much the new look changed Rowe's appearance.

Rowe produced a couple of handy goals, including one gem from the pocket that he actually screwed in twice.

His first attempt saw him run around the mark and do it through, only to hear the whistle-blower tell him to go back and do it again over the mark... which he promptly did.



HOME AGAIN... physical fitness expert Merv White is back at Fremantle Oval after stints at three other WAFL clubs. Here he renews acquaintances with Peter Worsfold, back from Brisbane and second-year coach Mark Watson, who White worked with at Lathlain Park in their days at Perth



Bulldog back home

WELL-KNOWN physical fitness expert Merv White has finally returned home — to Fremantle Oval.

White, a brother of former South Fremantle and State player Barry, has rejoined the Bulldogs this year as their fitness adviser.

A former Souths player himself, White has moved around in his football activities in recent times, working with coaches such as Mal Brown, John Todd and Ken Judge at South Fremantle, Swan Districts, Perth and East Fremantle.

He was instrumental in helping put East Fremantle on the road to their 1992 premiership when he joined Judge in their pre-season preparation and now he returns to Fremantle Oval to offer Mark Watson his expertise.

Watson has also recruited former Claremont team mate, ruckman Des Hindson, to help out as a skills coach.

Pioneer back home

THE powerful Wanneroo Football Club has recruited one of its genuine pioneering stalwarts to take on the presidency this year.

Alan Carstairs was at the coaching helm in 1962 when North Perth beat Wanneroo in the second division of the WA Amateur Football Association and when the two clubs merged the next year and joined the Sunday Football League, he became the club's first captain-coach.

It took the new club seven years before they tasted premiership success, but they had plenty of familiar football names emerge through their ranks, including current West Perth president Tom James (who was Carstairs' assistant coach that first year), former field umpire Ron Powell and the Guelfi brothers.

Tightrope walkers

MORE than a few East Fremantle players found themselves walking a tightrope — literally — at last weekend's training camp.

A big squad of Sharks were put through a tough camp at HMAS Stirling, on Garden Island, where the Navy physical training instructors gave them a harrowing time, including walking a tightrope 9-metres above the ground.

The players came home familiar with unusual names such as the Milking Machine, the Postman's Walk, the Play Pen, the Flying Fox and the Burma Bridge — all part of the demanding ropes course situated on the southern shores of Careening Bay.

Different views

INNOVATIVE coaches often have differing points of view on changes to the game — and such is the current case with Essendon's Kevin Sheedy and Claremont's Gerard Neesham, the reigning premiership mentors.

Sheedy has suggested the introduction of a "hot spot" about 35-metres from goal, where players could take their kick after receiving a 50-metre penalty inside the half-forward line arc, instead of being taken right up to the goal-square.

He feels that would make the players earn the goal, rather than shooting from point-blank range.

But Neesham sees the idea as just another case of tampering with the rules of the game.

But they do agree on the 50-metre penalty itself — both are adamant that it doesn't work properly and should be totally overhauled.

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Eagles pair are under the axe

BORDERLINE West Coasters are looking over their shoulders as the March pre-season draft draws closer.

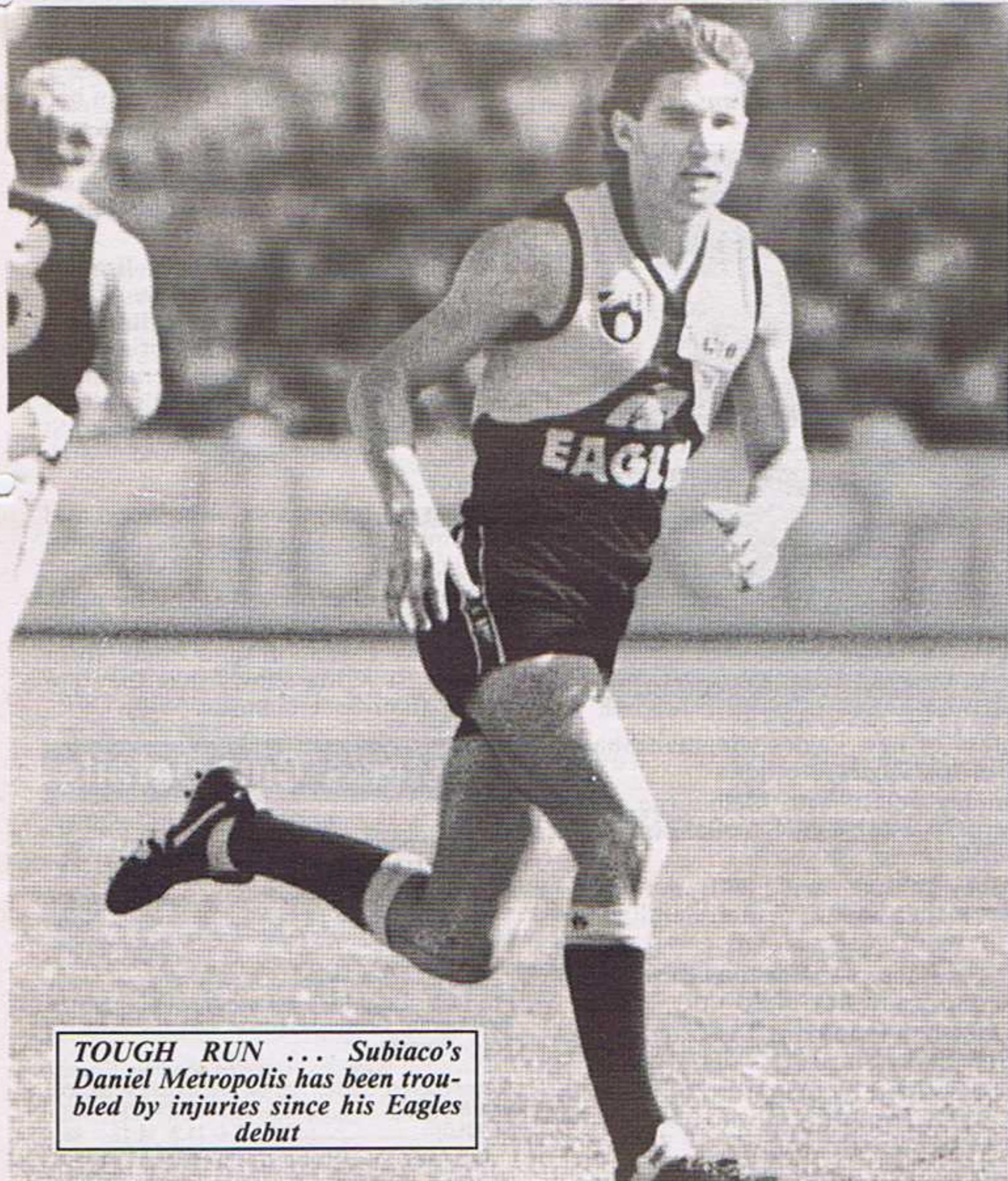
The Eagles are expected to reduce their squad by one to the 41-player maximum after cutting back to 42 last November.

Players like Daniel Metropolis and Paul Symmons, who survived the cut last October, face yet another hurdle in

their careers as the March 16 draft approaches.

The Eagles have 16th pick in the draft and, like all clubs, must select at least one player after reducing their

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**



TOUGH RUN ... Subiaco's Daniel Metropolis has been troubled by injuries since his Eagles debut

list. Players are being closely watched as the March 8 deadline for delisting players approaches and Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett says it won't be an easy choice.

"Whoever misses out will be very unlucky and there is no clear cut decision," he said.

"We will leave it until the March 8 deadline because there will be games right up until then."

Speculation surrounds the playing future of Metropolis and Symmons, two Eagles players set to come under the closest scrutiny in coming practice matches.

OVERLOOKED

Both will play with their WAFL clubs in the Emu Export Series this weekend, after being overlooked for the Foster's Cup clash in Adelaide.

Improved form from Matt Connell in pre-season outings and the fact that he has just gained employment with the Football Development Trust as one of three Eagles promoting the game, almost certainly secures his place in the squad.

Metropolis has played six games in two seasons after being drafted in 1991. But he has struggled with persistent injuries after a sensational six-goal debut.

The 21-year-old has played in all Eagles B-sides over pre-season, while Symmons played against Adelaide in the A-side at Football Park recently.

Symmons, drafted from West Perth in 1992, is yet to make his AFL debut though he appears to be making steady progress this summer.

All players delisted must nominate to be eligible for selection in the March draft.

Six of the seven players on the Eagles supplementary list will be automatically eligible for selection after nominating for last year's draft.

Travis Edmonds has withdrawn his



WORRIED ... West Perth's Paul Symmons has his fingers crossed about holding his Eagles spot

nomination in the hope of remaining in WA and becoming an inaugural member of the Fremantle based side.

Young Subiaco ruckman/forward Scott Gooch caught the eye when he joined Eagles squad members during pre-season matches and he is sure to be a prime target.

Melbourne and Richmond looked closely at the former State schoolboy captain before last year's draft and their interest may have been rekindled.

Westside goes weekly on March 10

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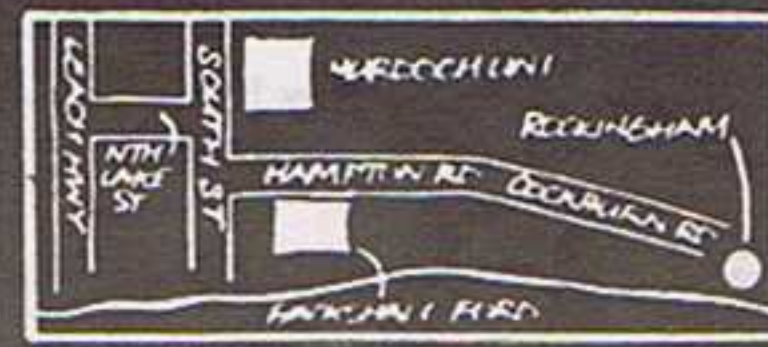
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Gaspar set for Swans debut

BOOM South Fremantle recruit Darren Gaspar is set to make his first appearance for Sydney as Foster's Cup action continues on the weekend.

Sydney unveil the highly-talented defender when they play Footscray at Wagga, in New South Wales, in a day game on Saturday.

Gaspar was the AFL's No. 1 draft selection last season, an honour that has been hard to live up to in the past.

The 17-year-old has been tried in a back-pocket, centre-half-back and full-back by Swans coach Ron Barassi in lead-up practice matches.

Beaten badly by Brisbane in New South Wales last weekend, Sydney showed good form against Geelong in Barooga, on the NSW/Victoria border, the previous week and hope that their form in outlying areas continues.

Mark Hepburn, a former Eagle and North Melbourne player and a surprise choice in last year's draft, is also likely to play against the Bulldogs.

SOUTHERN'S CLAIM

Footscray should follow suit and name Danny Southern at centre-half-back in his first outing for his new club after being drafted from Claremont.

The Bulldogs are looking forward to their first serious hit-out after destroying an under-manned Fitzroy side by 134 points at Braybrook last Saturday.

Carlton and Hawthorn clash at Waverley Park on Saturday night in what looms as a blockbuster encounter even if the two sides are rated as outsiders to win the Foster's Cup.

Quoted at odds a long way behind 3/1 night favourites Essendon, the Blues and Hawks have both had outstanding pre-seasons.

Carlton last week won a high standard match against Melbourne after previously beating Essendon, while Hawthorn also demolished the Bombers in their last outing.

Carlton played Melbourne at Waverley, which has been described "in excellent condition" after last season's criticism.

Former Sydney and Collingwood rover Barry Mitchell will play his first official game with the Blues and is eager to silence his critics after a disappointing season with the Magpies.

"Barry's been gathering 20 to 25 possessions a game and if he can keep it up, we'll be more than happy," said Carlton recruiting manager Geoff Walsh.

"He's kicked goals and has been instrumental in others."

Mitchell's creative work around the packs will be vital in the absence of the side's biggest possession-getter of last season, Greg Williams, sidelined with a knee injury.

ANOTHER BOND

Adrian Gleeson is expected to be recalled after being rested throughout pre-season and he will team with roving recruit Troy Bond, set to make his first appearance against Hawthorn after joining Carlton from Port Adelaide.

debut

WARMING UP
... Bulldogs youngster Darren Gaspar is set for a debut in the red-and-white colours of AFL club Sydney. After a six-game WAFL debut last season, Gaspar accepted a draft call to Sydney and has impressed Swans coach Ron Barassi



Bond, an older brother of new Eagles wingman Shane, has good goal-sense like his Eagles brother.

Brisbane go into Sunday's clash with Melbourne at the Gabba without star recruit Alastair Lynch (collar bone) and ruckman Damien Bourke (knee).

A good win over Sydney at Macquarie Fields, in Sydney, last weekend has the Bears on a high with their depth at the club better than any previous years.

Melbourne were five-point losers to Carlton last weekend at Waverley and have had a low-key build up.

Full-forward Allen Jakovich is looking the fittest of his career and ruckman Jim Stynes is also raring to go.

The Demons could be boosted by the return of midfield runners Stephen Tingay and Todd Viney, who have recovered from ankle injuries.

Handy rewards in Cup campaign

PERFORMING well in Foster's Cup matches has obvious advantages, none bigger than the \$104,500 carrot dangled in front of the winners.

But the sides aren't in it for the prize money, there is football pride at stake as well as the chance of improvement against quality opposition.

It is only natural that sides playing in front of crowds up to 30,000 — not to mention a huge nation-wide viewing audience — try that bit harder.

The AFL's new format for Foster's Cup losers also has clubs striving for success.

The simple fact is if you keep winning Foster's Cup matches, you won't be sent to the outback to play in an exhibition practice match.

A Foster's Cup win guarantees another good quality match in a pressure situation.

In the words of Carlton recruiting manager Geoff Walsh: "Otherwise you could end up playing anywhere."

Anywhere includes Bendigo, Moe or Kyabram, in Vic-

toria, or the New South Wales country towns of Lavington and Sebastopol.

First round losers North Melbourne and St Kilda will play in Launceston on March 6, but as some compensation they receive \$5500 for their one losing performance.

Coaches also hate losing — anywhere and anytime.

You only had to look at the face of North Melbourne coach Denis Pagan on Saturday night as his side squandered an early lead against Collingwood.

Pagan blasted instructions down the phone in earnest, all to no avail. And what about Richmond coach John Northey's desperate dash onto Waverley as Monday night's match went into extra time?

There's no doubt winning creates a nice feeling around the club and it's nice to get a win on the board early... even if it is only a practice match.

There are other obvious advantages for the marketing departments of the clubs in terms of securing sponsors and members.

Last year 20-percent of Richmond's membership was attributed to their winning run in the Foster's Cup, which saw them finish runner's-up to Essendon.

Standards high in early matches

NARROW wins to Collingwood and Richmond in the opening round of the \$360,500 Foster's Cup against more-fancied opponents sets up a showdown between these teams in round two.

As well as being entertained with nail-biting finishes, fans have been treated to an impressive display of ball skills for this time of the season.

The pre-season competition is usually marred by fumbled marks and rusty kicks for goal that often finish out of bounds.

Collingwood's new recruit Bradley Plain and North Melbourne's Adrian McAdam stood out on Saturday night with their uncanny goal-scoring and Monday night saw some tremendous running play by Richmond's Stuart Maxfield and Wayne Campbell and St Kilda's Darren Bourke and Mick Dwyer.

Next Monday sees Collingwood and Richmond fight for a place in the semi-finals.

Richmond surprised many by making the final of last year's Foster's Cup, losing to Essendon and their form against St Kilda shows that they are better than 33/1 chances.

Foster's Cup Details

COLLINGWOOD 2.2 3.5 10.1113.14 92
NORTH MELBOURNE ... 2.3 7.6 8.1013.13 91

GOALS — Collingwood: Plain 4; M Richardson 3; Russell, Rowe 2; Daicos, Buckley. **North Melbourne:** Carey, McAdam 5; Martyn, Archer, Roberts.

BEST — Collingwood: Russell, Williams, Plain, Francis, Buckley, M Richardson. **North Melbourne:** Carey, McAdam, Roberts, Rock, C. Sholl, German.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Andrew Coates, Trevor Garrett, Darren Agnew. Attendance: 25,708.
RICHMOND 4.3 8.6 12.9 17.14 116
ST KILDA 5.1 9.4 11.9 14.12 96

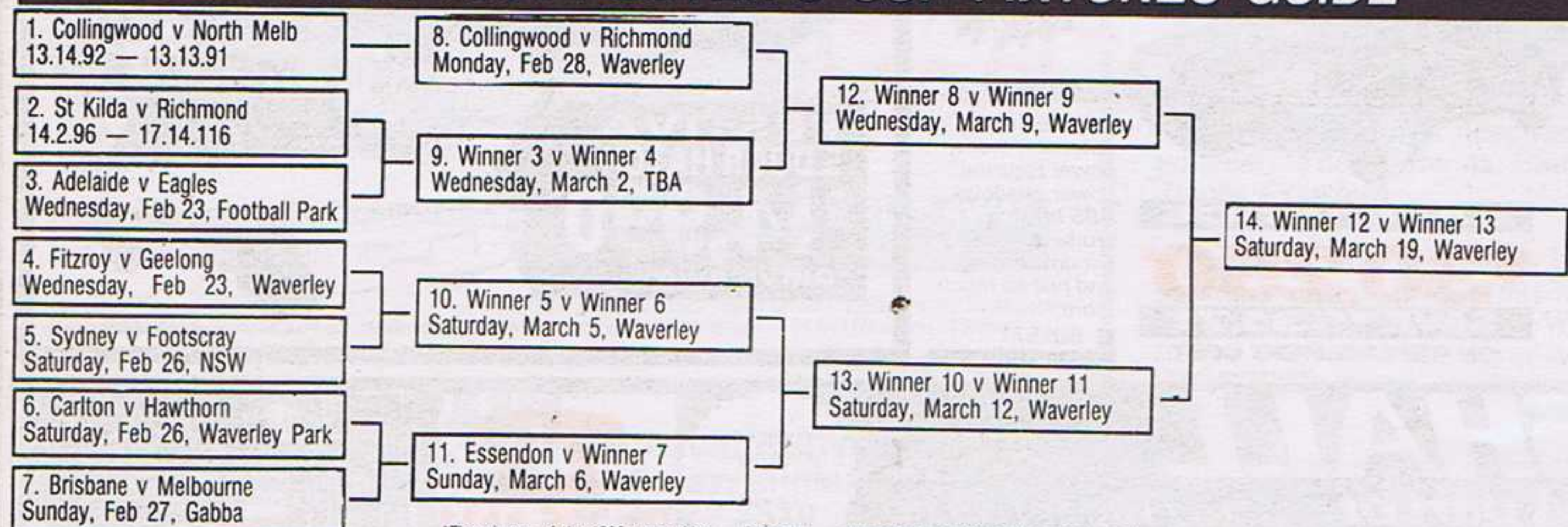
GOALS — Richmond: Richardson 8, Campbell, Hernaman, Dundas 2, Turner, Maxfield, Gale. **St Kilda:** Lockett 5; Fode 4; O'Brien 2; A Harvey, Dwyer, Frost.

BEST — Richmond: Campbell, Maxfield, Rogers, Naish, Broderick, Richardson. **St Kilda:** Pekin, Burke, Dwyer, Greig, Anderson, Grant.
Played at Waverley. Umpires: Bryan Sheehan, Brett Allen, Adrian Panozzo. Attendance: 18,662



GOOD START ... the early-season form of Magpies rover Tony Francis was a highlight of the opening Foster's Cup match

YOUR 1994 FOSTER'S CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



*The winners of the 1993 competition — Essendon — automatically qualify for the second round.

NIGHT AND DAY: HOW THEY FARED

Year	Night premier	Finished season
1977	Hawthorn	third
1978	Fitzroy	ninth
1979	Collingwood	second
1980	North Melb	fifth
1981	Essendon	fifth
1982	Sydney	seventh
1983	Carlton	fifth
1984	Essendon	first
1985	Hawthorn	second
1986	Hawthorn	first
1987	Melbourne	fourth
1988	Hawthorn	first
1989	Melbourne	fourth
1990	Essendon	second
1991	Hawthorn	first
1992	Hawthorn	fifth
1993	Essendon	first

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PRESENTS . . .

Face to face

The challenge ahead for West Coast coach Mick Malthouse is one of revival, with the Eagles slipping from 1992 premiers to 1993 fourth place-getters. Westside Football's ALAN EAST talks to the Eagles mentor about the upcoming season

Malthouse says the competition looks even tougher

What are your thoughts on the year ahead?

Basically, we came away from last year with the knowledge that 12 of the 15 teams finished with a win/loss ratio of 50-percent or better. I don't see that changing; if anything, it will become tighter. Brisbane have recruited extremely well; the draw itself is designed to even things up more and there just doesn't seem to be a great deal of difference between the teams these days.

You need an ounce of luck with injuries; you need to win those games you are supposed to win — and win the majority of home games. But, more importantly, you need to maintain concentration more than anything else this year. You only need a brief lapse and the other side gets itself in front and you lose four points.

Where do you think you can improve on last year?

There are probably a couple of areas where we can improve. I believe we relied on too few players to carry us last year; a few players who tended to work within their own range without over-extending themselves.

There seems to be a real hunger in the place now, which suggests they will be that much better in their approach to the game. The reduction of the player lists, while sometimes being something of a danger, does at least mean we will have to concentrate on every player and try and improve them all, instead of some more than others.

I also believe a few players will stand up more this year. There were a number of promising efforts in the youth game against Brisbane and some of those players have gone on since then. That could be the catalyst of us getting into the finals this year, the increased depth and having our numbers up.

The gap between the group of experienced players and the up-and-comers is getting closer, isn't it?

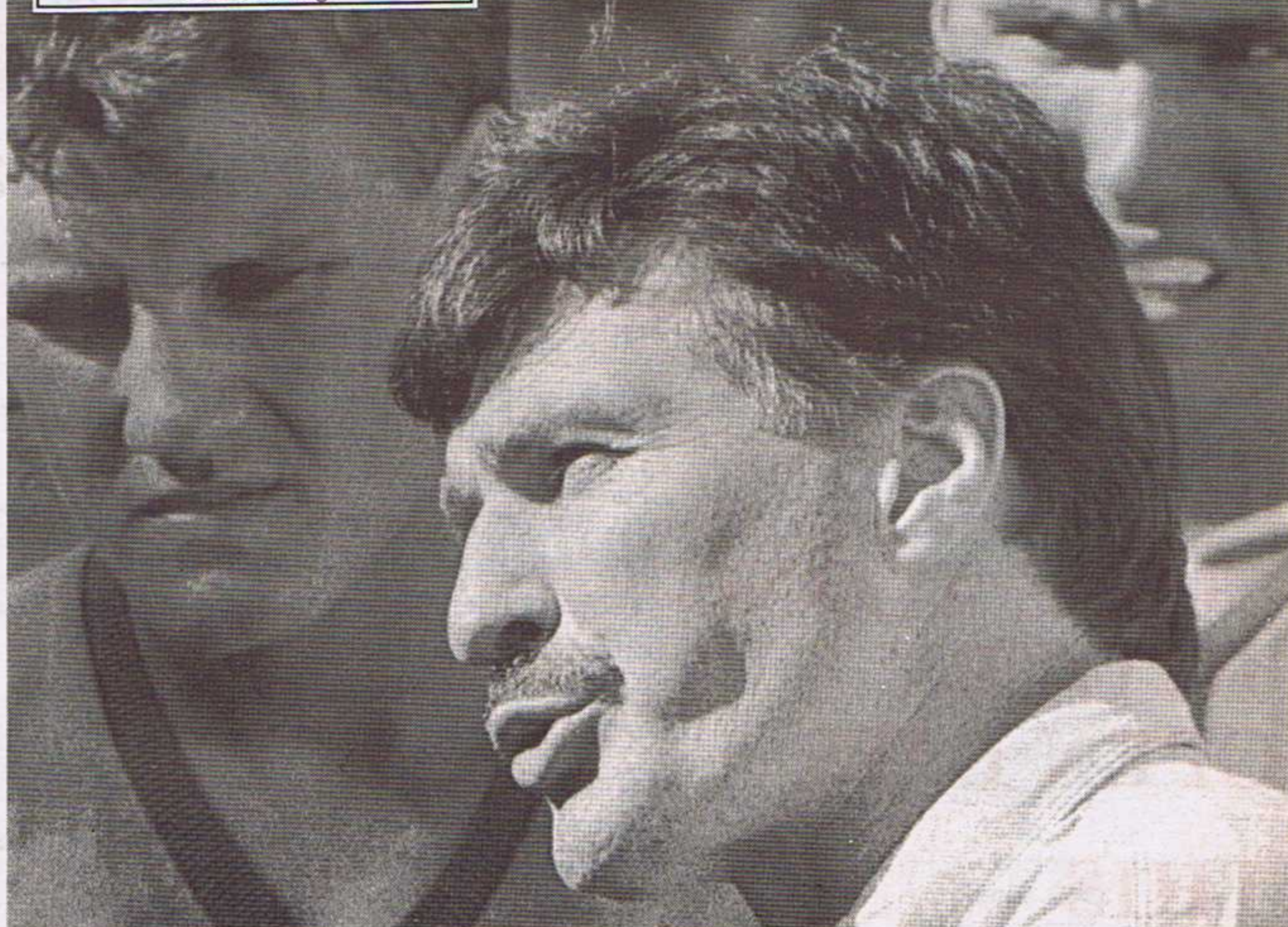
Yes, it is. And that's good. That's a definite need if you are going to have a successful club. Your best chance of success is to have your second 20 testing your first 20. And that didn't always happen last year.

What are your thoughts on the second AFL team out of Fremantle?



POST MORTEM . . . the after-match press conferences are a fact of football life that Mick Malthouse has to endure

URGING ON . . . Eagles coach Mick Malthouse is confident that his players will respond to a fresh 1994 challenge



That's not an issue as far as I'm concerned. It might be further down the track, but not now.

There have been quite a few changes for this year, such as the final eight. What are your thoughts on that?

I can't see how you can accept mediocrity and mediocrity is when you don't have to finish in the top half to be in the finals. That's not conducive to tough, relentless pressure. We've seen it increase from a final four, to a five, then a six and now it's eight. How far do they go before they are satisfied? To me it's the almighty dollar that rules us. There were a lot of general managers who jumped at it once the extra dollars were mentioned. The final eight takes away the chase.

The three-man interchange bench?

We've been after that for years. It's only partially increased to what it should be. I'd like to see up to six players on the interchange bench, allowing for players to be used in short, sharp bursts when needed. It's interesting when you realise that the final eight concept has come in quickly over the last few weeks; while the question of an increased interchange bench has been going on now for 10 years. It's taken all that time; it's amazing — you talk about an area where you have to spend money and it's knocked on the head, but something that might bring dollars in and it's agreed to immediately.

How do you rate the opposition camps this year?

The trendsetters were Essendon last year and I don't see them being any different. They've got the best bunch of local kids coming through the system; graduating from their local zone to be outstanding players. Adelaide of course will be very tough; I wouldn't deny Carlton's chances . . . I could go on and make a case for every club. It's going to be a tough year and that's what you want as a coach; you want to see good competition.

There were a lot of younger players drafted last year; is that a new trend?

I think it's too early to tell. March might be re-assessment time. Some clubs might be thinking of picking up three or four experienced players come March; it will be interesting.

Last year the Eagles lost their apparent home-ground dominance, especially at the WACA Ground. Is that a sign of the times in a national competition?

Everyone grows up; they all know how to travel these days, it's not something new any more. No-one uses the travel as an excuse now. Maybe you have to look at some of our losses . . . we lost a game by a goal, Fitzroy beat us clearly, there was 20 points in it against Geelong. There's no true home ground advantage any more. We play a number of games at the WACA Ground, but Subiaco is our home ground. We only get to train on the WACA three or four times a season.

In Melbourne, a lot of people refer to our games at the WACA as home games simply because they are in Perth. That's the same as saying Footscray play 15 home games just because they are playing in Melbourne. True home ground advantages probably still go to Adelaide, where they get 45,000 or so at Football Park; Western Oval gives Footscray a distinct advantage

because it's such an odd-shaped ground. But outside that, we're starting to lose that home ground advantage in the professionalism of football.

What is the biggest challenge for the Eagles as a team this year?

The real challenge is that we come up against the top five sides of last season twice each this year. Because of the new draw, it's uncertain how many wins a team will need to finish in the top two or three. Without worrying too much about the figures, it's important to get off to a good start. It's always hard for us to win the Foster's Cup pre-series because we would have to travel two or three times in a row to get the chance to play in the grand final, let alone get over Adelaide in the first game. Our energies will be directed towards the first part of the year. We're no more advanced than previous seasons, but we know we play Essendon on March 26 and everything else up to that point is experimental, even though we obviously want to do well in the night series.

What's the personal challenge for you this year?

I don't like to talk about personal things; it's a team game and our team goal is to do as well as we can and to do better than we did last year.

You have now signed a contract to take you through to the end of 1996 as coach; does it surprise you that you're going to stay in the West for seven years?

That's something you don't think about. You don't think about coaching long-term or how long you'll be in one place. You concentrate year by year.

Are you surprised at how well you have settled into the West?

I haven't really thought about it. I came across to coach and coaching is what I'm trying to do to the best of my ability.

Do you think you've changed as a coach in those years since coming from Victoria? Have you had to change your style to compete against the Vics?

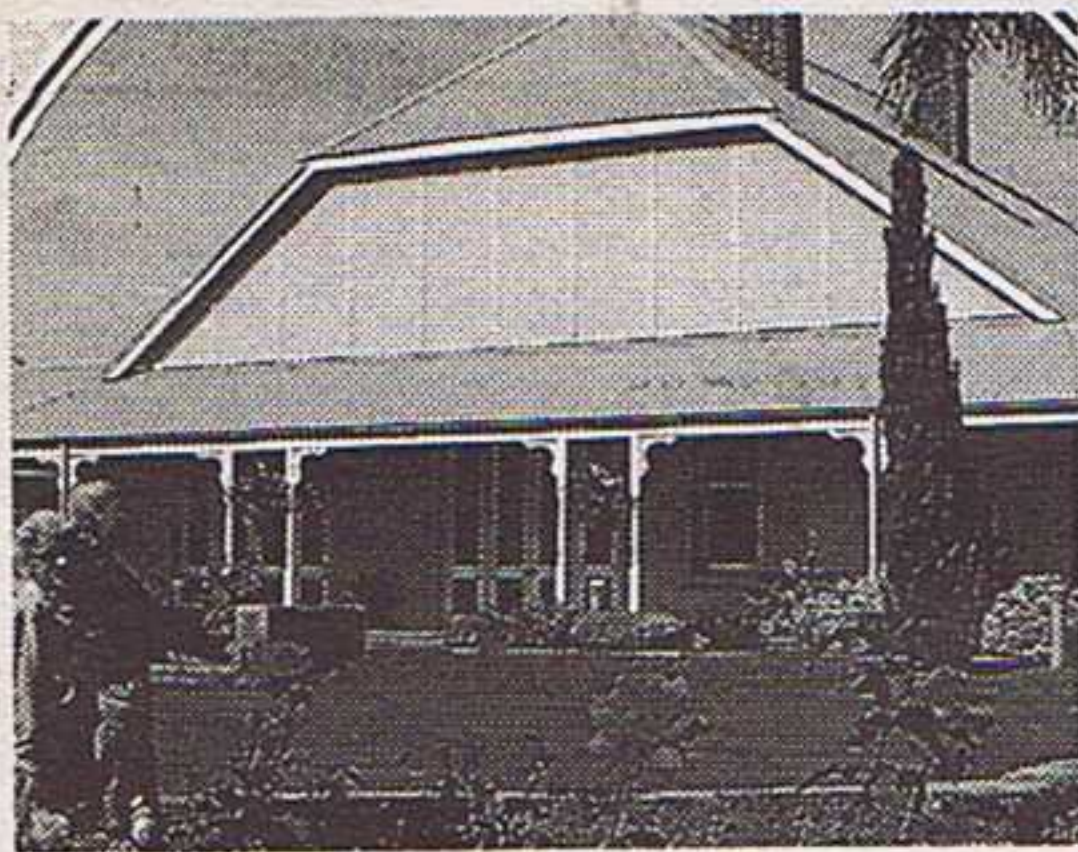
I coach the same type of philosophy as I always did. You have to adjust to the different football surroundings; you can see where the game is going and you adjust to the different players. You have to make minor changes as you go along.

You seem to cop a fair bit of flak from the Victorian media now that you're perceived as a West Australian. Does that bother you?

I can't say I've really noticed it. I don't really know about it; you're telling me it's negative, I have no feelings one way or the other. I see the media as one part of football and it's just another involvement. I'm not here as a public relations consultant or whatever. I'm here to coach.

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He's coming back . . . The Hood returns on March 10



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Unobtrusive but utterly reliable service is expected; the standard of care, from our Restaurant to the Respite Rooms, is excellent.

In every circumstance, a St Louis Resident will have superior options to choose from than if they remained in their original family home.

Their architect designed villas are spacious and equipped with the most modern fittings, making them a joy to decorate and live in.

Maintenance is no longer a responsibility, as the estate management takes care of it all.

In emergencies, staff are always on hand to respond to the alarm bell - even in the small hours.

If long-term support is required, residents are in the happy position of being able to choose from a range of services up to and including full hostel care - in their original unit, a serviced apartment or respite room. Recreation within the village includes the use of the charming Homestead - named Hinemoa by its original owners over a century ago and now protected by National Trust listing.

The Homestead includes library, billiard room, craft room, lovely lounge, bank agency and heated swimming pool.

Other amenities which residents can take for granted are the hydrotherapy Pool, Hairdressing Salon, Restaurant and ongoing social activities.

At the core of St Louis is a team of genuinely devoted people who understand the simple adage that the resident comes first.

St Louis is much more than a job to them, it is a rewarding way of life.

Many residents are as independent as they were before moving to the Estate and rarely need to encounter the staff while others could not remain in their own homes without the daily attention from understanding and competent carers.

Whatever the situation, as one would expect from Perth's premier retirement estate, individual preferences are paramount. There are few generalisations, therefore, which can be accurately made about life at St Louis, other than to say that each contented person now living here and enjoying complete peace of mind about their future started out by enquiring about what exactly we had to offer.

If you feel it's time to make some preliminary enquiries about the availability of quality private accommodation and optional care, come along to our open day or you are welcome to phone me on 385 1420; and we can arrange your visit at a time that is convenient to you.

St Louis Retirement Estate, at the very heart of Claremont, opened in 1987. Today, nearly 200 residents are living happily at St Louis. If you have ever wondered why so many people have chosen to make their home here, it would be my pleasure to explain some of the many good reasons and to show you around the estate.

I feel sure that you will be favourably impressed with the many advantages which those who live at St Louis enjoy and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future."



**Retirement Village Association
of Western Australia (Inc)**

BOVELL'S

PRESENTS ...

Bovell's Best

Aussie Rules has produced many champions in more than 100 years of fierce competition across the nation and this summer series profiles some of WA's stars of the past

John K. Watts is so well known for his football funny man role on radio and television, that his football prowess with East Perth and Geelong is often overlooked. TANIA ARMSTRONG talks to the four-times premiership player about his on and off-field antics

From defence to airwaves, John K. Watts made his mark



HIGH FLIER ... John Watts was a star full-back with East Perth in the 1950s golden era and this is one of his most famous photographs, bundling teammate Mal Atwell out of the way to take a great mark over a poor Subiaco rival. **INSET:** John K. Watts, the fast-talking media personality, is still full of laughs

GROWING up in unallotted territory gave John Watts a choice of clubs — and East Perth are thankful he chose them.

Not only have the Royals received enormous publicity across the nation through 'Wattsie's' bragging on radio and television ... but they also gained a pretty handy player.

So handy that he's modest enough to admit that he was the reason behind East Perth's three premierships in their golden era of 1956-58-59.

Playing at full-back, Watts made a name for himself as a tough defender, not blessed with pace, but built in an uncompromising mould.

Raised in Maylands, Watts played his junior football with Bayswater, in the Swan Districts Junior Council.

Having represented Swans in the Temperance League in the under-15s, he and good friend Paul Seal travelled to Bassendean to see if they could sign up to play seconds.

Seal played on a wing for Bayswater, while Watts lined up at full-back or centre-half-forward.

At only 15 years of age they were told they were too young, but both believed they were good enough so they tried the next closest option, East Perth.

The Royals never hesitated in securing their services and Seal, who went on to play 164 games, was on a wing in those three grand final victories, driving the ball into attack after a typical Watts clearance from full-back.

Watts debuted in 1954 and played 166 games in nine seasons with the Royals.

He played his first two seasons of league football under coach Mick Cronin before Jack Sheedy took over in 1956 and changed the make-up of the side.

"Ted Kilmurray, Polly Farmer and I all started off playing reserves together," recalled Watts.

"Sheedy then came in and promoted a lot of younger players.

"That was when I really became a regular league player."

BACK-TO-BACK

A premiership was Sheedy's reward in his first season in 1956 before a narrow 16-point loss to East Fremantle the following season prevented back-to-back flags.

While the loss was bad enough, Watts found himself reported for striking Brian Lawrence, copping a six-week holiday.

"Someone had sent a hospital kick towards Jim Washborne and Lawrence lined him up while he was waiting for it," recall Watts.

"I went in to shepherd him out of the way and he hit me on the back of the head which was a big mistake.

"I turned around and whacked him!"

While the tribunal verdict gave him a late start to the 1958 season, Watts once again found himself at full-back for the Royals successes of '58 and '59.

His finest hour on the interstate arena came in 1959 when he won the Simpson Medal against South Australia while curbing the goalkicking efforts of Noel Judd and Wally Dittmar.

Next on Watts' hit-list was the VFL.

Watts says the successful transition of his East Perth team-mate Graham Farmer paved the way for his arrival at Geelong in 1963.

Farmer, who had played in the three premiership sides with Watts, joined Geelong in 1962 as a 27-year-old.

"Once Geelong got Polly they started looking for another big man," recalled Watts.

"They approached South Australian Neil Kerley and when he knocked it back, I jumped at it."

The 25-year-old Watts joined the



TALL TALES ... a familiar pose, JKW at the microphone



Cats as Farmer's understudy; a burly defender who could also ruck when required by coach Bob Davis.

Instant success came when the Cats beat Hawthorn for the 1963 flag before more than 100,000 people at the MCG.

"I loved my time at Geelong," said Watts.

"They were such great people there and the weather didn't worry me because I could play anywhere!"

HELPING OUT

Stationed in a back-pocket on grand final day and helping out with the ruck work, Watts said he only got a go at full-back with the Cats when regular custodian Roy West was having a tough time.

West played State football for Victoria and, like Watts, was well known for his drop kicks out of defence.

It was in Melbourne that Watts developed his liking for the media when he ran a hotel and tried his hand at some radio commercials.

Three seasons and 52 games later, Watts was all set to come home to East

Perth to finish his playing career when he was enticed to Tasmania.

Work on radio and a television panel show complemented his new football job as playing coach of Hobart.

He led Hobart to a premiership in his first season, but on return to Perth three years later, put coaching behind him to concentrate on a successful media career.

Channel 7 made him a Perth identity and John 'K' Watts was born.

So what does the K stand for?

Watts confesses that his name is in fact John Albert Watts, but he was given the K to stand for 'know-all' by highly-respected Channel 7 legend Brian Treasure.

In partnership with Barry Martin, Watts was the funny man in the State's top-rating breakfast show on Radio 6PR, co-owning the station at the time.

His interests in hotels also continued after building the Kewdale Hotel and becoming license of the Ocean Beach Hotel.

Still involved in media, though not on air these days, Watts is busy selling Sky Channel to local publicans.

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Coaches make good use of Cup series



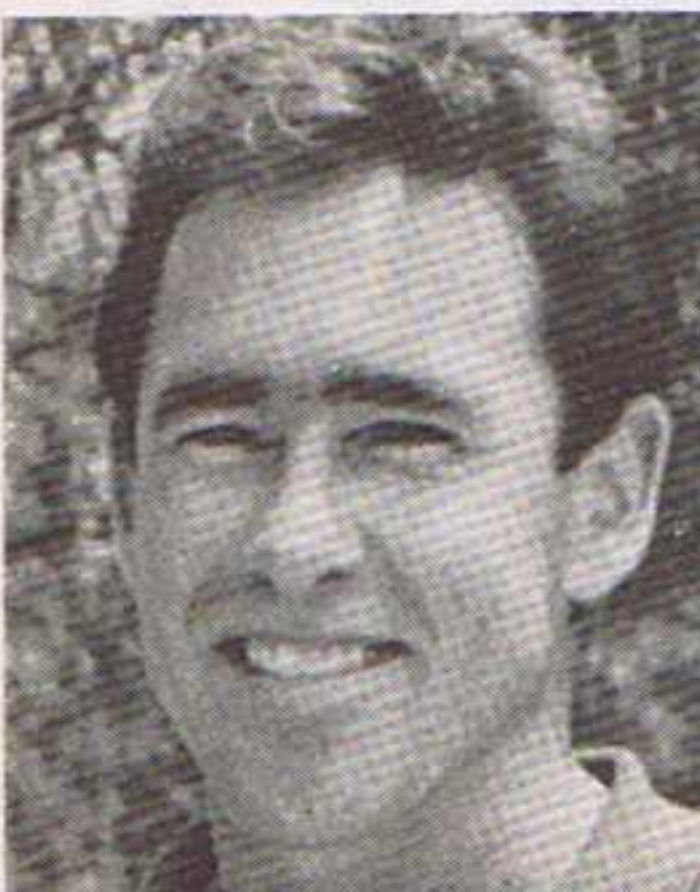
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Mark Watson



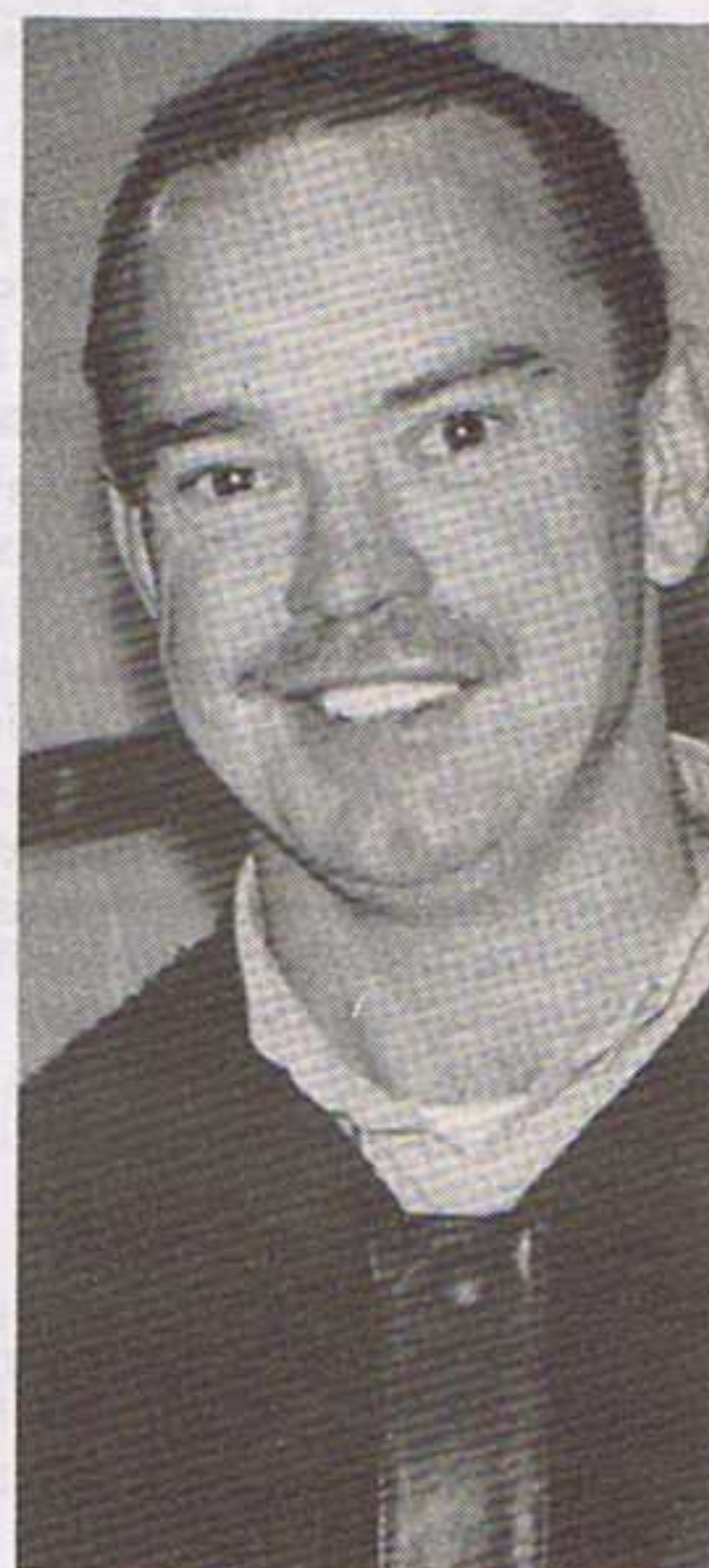
David Glascott



Rob Solin



Tony Solin



Gerard Neesham



John Todd



Jeff Gieschen

FOOTBALL kicks off on a serious note this weekend with all eight WAFL clubs in action in the first of five weekends in the Emu Export summer series.

With half of the 18 qualifying matches being played at the WACA Ground — most of them under lights — and the other fixtures scheduled for a variety of venues, the challenge ahead for the coaches is an interesting one.

Some coaches see the pre-season series as vital for their 1994 Pepsi Cup prospects, while others treat the matches as experimental and a time to blood new players and see what they are worth.

But all the coaches agree that the concept of the Emu Export round-robin series is better than normal practice matches, providing a more serious approach to winning, with something at stake.

Here are the thoughts of the 1994 Emu Export coaches — and how they see the early part of the season:-

KEN JUDGE (East Fremantle):

"After winning this series last summer, we didn't really go on with things. We just missed the finals at the end of the season, so this year we aim to consolidate early on. You need a touch of luck with injuries and we'll be looking for half-a-dozen or so of last year's newcomers to step forward and claim regular league spots. The WAFL looks a lot tougher this season and there are plenty of exciting young West Australian players on the way up."

DAVID GLASCOTT (Perth):

"We're aiming to be fit and competitive in the series, but our long-term goal is to develop some consistency over the season. Immediate success is hard to come by when you have been down the bottom the year before, so I've stressed to the players that improvement may take a little while. The mood is certainly enthusiastic on the track, but it would need to be at this time of the year. Any changeover of personnel takes time to be accepted by all concerned, but I'm impressed with the attitude."

ROBERT SOLIN (East Perth):

"This will be a real challenge for us, as we've promised a bit in our early hit-outs, so it will be interesting to see how they go. We aim to increase our effectiveness this season and while our depth seems pretty good, we've got to hope we can avoid injuries to senior players, as was the case early last year. We've lost a couple of key players, but we do have an exciting crop of youngsters with potential — as is the case with most of the other clubs, so there should be plenty of talent on trial."

MARK WATSON (South Fremantle):

"I'm confident we can improve on last year, especially early on and we'll be using this series to really test a few players. Our player depth is good and we believe that we've recruited well, aiming to fill holes where we saw deficiencies last season. The WAFL itself looks much tougher this season and we're aiming to have a good start, but also being careful not to fall away like we did towards the end of last year."

JEFF GIESCHEN (West Perth):

"We are geared up for a good start to build on our solid finish to last season. We've made a commitment to give our younger guys a fair go in this Emu Export series, especially the country players who are trying out. We have established several priorities for the year and it's crucial that get into the habit of winning early on. We're still a little concerned about our attack and the inability to kick big scores. We're aiming to develop more method in the forward line and we're looking for a couple of players to stand up and be counted in attack."

TONY SOLIN (Subiaco):

"Our aim is to finish in the top three of the Pepsi Cup competition, so we need to get a solid start in the pre-season series. It took everyone a while to get used to a change of coaching personnel last season and to get to know each other. I feel very comfortable with the situation this year and the players aren't lacking in any area. Obviously, our success will depend a lot on how our West Coast Eagles players go and how we can mix them into our side as they move between us and the AFL arena."

GERARD NEESHAM (Claremont):

"The summer series is an excellent build-up to the season; it gives the teams real credibility in their preparation. Obviously, our aim is to win back-to-back WAFL premierships, which is something Claremont haven't been able to do for nearly 60 years. We've lost a few players again this season, but our programme of developing depth continues to pay off and I'm confident that we'll see a few more youngsters step into the limelight. The WAFL looks a lot tougher with this, with all the clubs recruiting well, so we should see plenty of competitiveness in the pre-season build-up."

JOHN TODD (Swan Districts):

"We've got an exceptionally big group on the training track, 75 or so, which is more than we usually have. With a few regular players opting for retirement and a couple heading over East, there will be plenty of opportunities at Swans. It's not really a rebuilding programme; we try to rebuild every year, to have guys coming up through the ranks so if we do lose a lot of players, we'll be ready for it. We've kept our recruiting to local guys and country players, so the door is open for plenty of newcomers to step forward."

Finals change likely

AN unusual twist to the Emu Export Cup could see the fight for minor placings take place after the winner is decided.

While negotiations are still being finalised for a North Melbourne vs WAFL curtain-raiser to the grand final on Friday, March 25, the Kangaroos visit to Perth would mean a reshuffle of original fixtures.

The curtain-raiser is likely to be played at the WACA Ground at 5.30pm with the Emu Export Cup grand final at 8pm.

While the play-off for minor placings was originally scheduled as a lead-up to the grand final, matches to decide the remaining six places would be played on the Saturday or Sunday after the Friday decider.

The WAFC is examining the viability of bringing the Kangaroos to Perth and feel that it would be a crowd pulling venture and tremendous exposure for sponsors Emu Export.

North Melbourne are keen to play a high quality fixture that weekend as other AFL sides open their seasons on March 26 and 27 while the Roos have a first round bye.

"The North Melbourne game is an excellent opportunity for players in the WAFL still knocking on the door of the AFL," said WAFL football manager Trevor Howard.

The WAFL is being used as a stepping stone to Fremantle's AFL side by many players this season and the Emu Export Cup is the first chance for them to show they mean business.



1994 EMU EXPORT SERIES

ROUND 1

Saturday, February 26:
Claremont v East Perth, Claremont Oval 3pm
Perth v East Fremantle, Lathlain Park 3pm

Monday, February 28:
Sth Fremantle v West Perth, WACA 6pm
Subiaco v Swan Districts, WACA 8pm

ROUND 2

Saturday, March 5:
South Fremantle v Subiaco, Mandurah 3pm

Monday, March 7:
Swan Districts v West Perth, WACA 4pm
East Fremantle v Claremont, WACA 6pm
Perth v East Perth, WACA 8pm



Plenty of new faces out on the park



FLASHBACK . . . Billy Krakouer (right) and Jeff Morris enjoyed East Fremantle's victory in last year's Emu Export Cup series

Brothers set to spark the Bulldogs

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**

THE Krakouer name has always sparked excitement into the hearts of football fans and there is an air of expectancy surrounding the arrival of brothers Billy and Andrew at Fremantle Oval.

Billy (27) was set to be cleared from East Fremantle this week after a drawn out tussle between the port clubs.

Younger brother Andrew (22) has been training well with the Bulldogs for a month and should play in the side's opening Emu Export Cup clash against West Perth on Monday.

South Fremantle coach Mark Watson is hopeful that Andrew will recover from the removal of an in-grown toenail this week in time to take to the WACA Ground.

Andrew joins the club from North Melbourne, where he played eight games after debuting as a 17-year-old.

He was delisted and then redrafted by new coach Denis Pagan in June last year, though he failed to add to his senior tally and finished the season playing reserves.

Krakouer was a leading candidate for the Emu Export John Worsfold Medal as player-of-the-series last summer and he's hoping to rekindle that form wearing red and white.

He played the first two games of last season with the Sharks, to take his tally to 65 after 16 games with Claremont in his debut season of 1988, when he came up from Mt Barker, in the Tigers country zone.

The fleet-footed pair are just two of the many players who are either having another crack at WAFL football or trying their luck for the first time.

A variety of big name recruits will be

seen in action in the Emu Export series, which starts with a re-match of last summer's grand final between Perth and East Fremantle at Lathlain Park on Saturday.

A deal struck between the WACA Ground and the WAFC sees more night games being played for the series, which will naturally cut WAFC profits.

Last year the inaugural series made a profit around \$25,000, but this time the WAFL is hoping to break even, with the WACA co-operating by reducing its lighting charges by 60-percent.

The first WACA fixtures will be played at 6pm on Monday between South Fremantle and West Perth, followed at 8 o'clock by Subiaco and Swan Districts.

New Eagle lines up with the Demons

SIX West Coast Eagles will play in the opening round of the Emu Export Cup with exciting youngster Fraser Gehrig set to make his first appearance with Perth.

The Murray Bushrangers draftee will line-up for the Demons on Monday although he is not officially tied with the WAFL club as yet.

Eagles officials are waiting for the finalisation of player rules governing the Fremantle side before they officially place new recruits Gehrig, Shane Bond and Brayden Lyle with WAFL clubs.

As a tall key position player, Gehrig is just what Perth ordered and he will be the only Eagle in action on Saturday as the remaining five line up with Subiaco and West Perth on Monday evening.

OPERATION

Jason Heatley, who is being eased into action after an October groin operation, will play for the Lions against Swan Districts at the WACA Ground at 8pm on Monday.

Also representing Subiaco will be Travis Burton, Damian Hampson and Daniel Metropolis, while Paul Symmons will play for West Perth against South Fremantle in the curtain-raiser at 6pm.

Hampson, a star of early season matches for Subiaco last year, has been performing well pre-season after recovering from a broken leg received while playing his fourth game for the Eagles last July.

Good performances in the opening two rounds of the Emu Export series have taken on considerable importance for Eagles squad members, with the club set to delist one player on March 8.

While only 22 Eagles were used against Adelaide in the Foster's Cup on Wednesday night, the remaining squad members will be rested after a hectic summer.

Jason Ball (shoulder) and Ryan Turnbull (ankle) were casualties of the previous Football Park encounter with the Crows, while Mitchell White, Brett Heady, Ashley McIntosh and Dean Kemp are all being nursed back to peak fitness.

CANDIDATE

A good season in the WAFL would put him high on the list of candidates for the new Fremantle AFL side, with his skill and football intelligence stamping him as capable of forging a career at the top level.

Billy, an experienced rover, left East Fremantle on a sour note last season and headed to Victoria to join his brothers.

"It's good to be back in WA after finishing last year playing in country Victoria," said Billy at Fremantle Oval this week.

"It's also great to be playing footy alongside Andrew."



CRACKER-JACKS . . . Billy Krakouer admires the guernsey that he'll wear for South Fremantle this year, while brother Andrew eyes off the old No. 6 worn by champion Maurice Rioli

Three umpires trial in summer series

THE three umpire system, which came under criticism after the West Coast-Adelaide practice match, will be on show in the WAFL's pre-season Emu Export Cup.

Three field umpires will be used for the first three rounds, before WAFL clubs meet to review its operation.

The three umpire system, which will be used by the AFL next season, will not be introduced for the coming WAFL season, though it is set for a start next year.

The WAFL's first experiment with the extra whistle-blower was in the recent practice match between East Perth and an

Eagles side at Perth Oval.

WA umpires coach David Johnson says many things learned in that match were passed onto the AFL.

"We found that the umpire stationed in the mid-zone got 70-percent of the play, while the other two went out to pasture," said Johnson.

Two umpires are stationed inside each 50-metre arc, largely to eliminate infringements against forwards as the football is sent into attack.

Experiments will continue throughout the Foster's Cup and Johnson will keep a close eye on developments with the Emu Export Cup.

Abbott at home with the Sharks

FORMER Hawthorn and Fitzroy ruckman Paul Abbott has slotted in nicely at East Fremantle after achieving a long-held desire to settle in the West.

Married to a West Australian and set to turn 30 in October, Abbott played alongside Sharks coach Ken Judge with Hawthorn in 1986 — Judge's last season at Glenferrie — and his new coach was instrumental in enticing him to Perth.

After debuting in 1984, Abbott played 85 games for Hawthorn including premierships in 1986 and 1988 and enjoyed a six-goal performance in the latter after coming off the interchange bench.

He joined Fitzroy in 1992 and played a further 26 games before being delisted after playing four games last season having suffered a broken arm in the opening round of the Foster's Cup.



NEW SHARK . . . East Fremantle coach Ken Judge chats to former Hawthorn team-mate Paul Abbott

"Nothing changes between old friends"





BRAYDEN LYLE

Breaking into the Eagles first-class defence will be no easy task for Brayden Lyle, but he has already given a good indication of what he is capable of.

The lightly built 20-year-old was a league regular in his first senior season with Port Adelaide last year after being drafted in 1992.

He has performed well in a back-pocket and across half-back in pre-season matches.



SO WATCH ALL YOU'LL GET YOU'LL GET CH



BRETT SPINKS and GREG WOOTTON

It is often said that big men take time to develop, but Brett Spinks is defying the odds by progressing in leaps and bounds.

Selected as a little known South Fremantle reserves player in the 1992 draft, the mobile 20-year-old has given the side another option at centre-half-forward in pre-season matches.

With strong hands, a penetrating kick and the will to learn, at 195cms Spinks is being touted as the Eagles problem solver in the key forward position.

While Spinks has the football world at his feet, supplementary player Greg Wootton has already tasted the disappointment of being delisted by St Kilda without even playing a game.

A skilful and pacy midfielder from South Fremantle, Wootton impressed in all outings and kicked four goals from a forward pocket against Subiaco while playing with the Eagles B-side.

SHA BO

One of the stars of the fleet-footed Port Adelaide has been earmarked to watch.

Drafted as a 1992, Bond opted last season in the program as the last eight games, including the

Able to hold a half-forward line blessed with quick and good goals



STEVE PENDLETON

A surprise packet from East Perth whose top form in his debut season earned him a place on the Eagles supplementary list.

A creative half-forward from the amateur ranks, he wasn't highly rated before the start of the season, but proved himself with 18 senior appearances.

An accurate shot at goals from close range, he has an awkward, but effective, kicking style.

Young Eagles lift the tempo

THE West Coast Eagles unveiled a talented band of AFL hopefuls this summer — with some of them already included in the official squad and others hoping to achieve that status.

The West Coasters used seven supplementary players for pre-season action and at least one of them could become a permanent Eagle when the March draft selections are conducted.

With only 42 players to choose from in season 1994, young Eagles are applying the pressure as the March 26 season-opener approaches.

BOUNCE INTO

CLUB

RUMOURS

SHANE BOND

the stars of pre-season, foot-footed 18-year-old Adelaide recruit has earmarked as an Eagle.

ed as 21st choice in Bond opted to complete son in the SANFL and sed as expected to play eight games of the sea-cluding the finals.

to hold down a wing or rward flank, Bond is with quick hands, pace and goalsense.

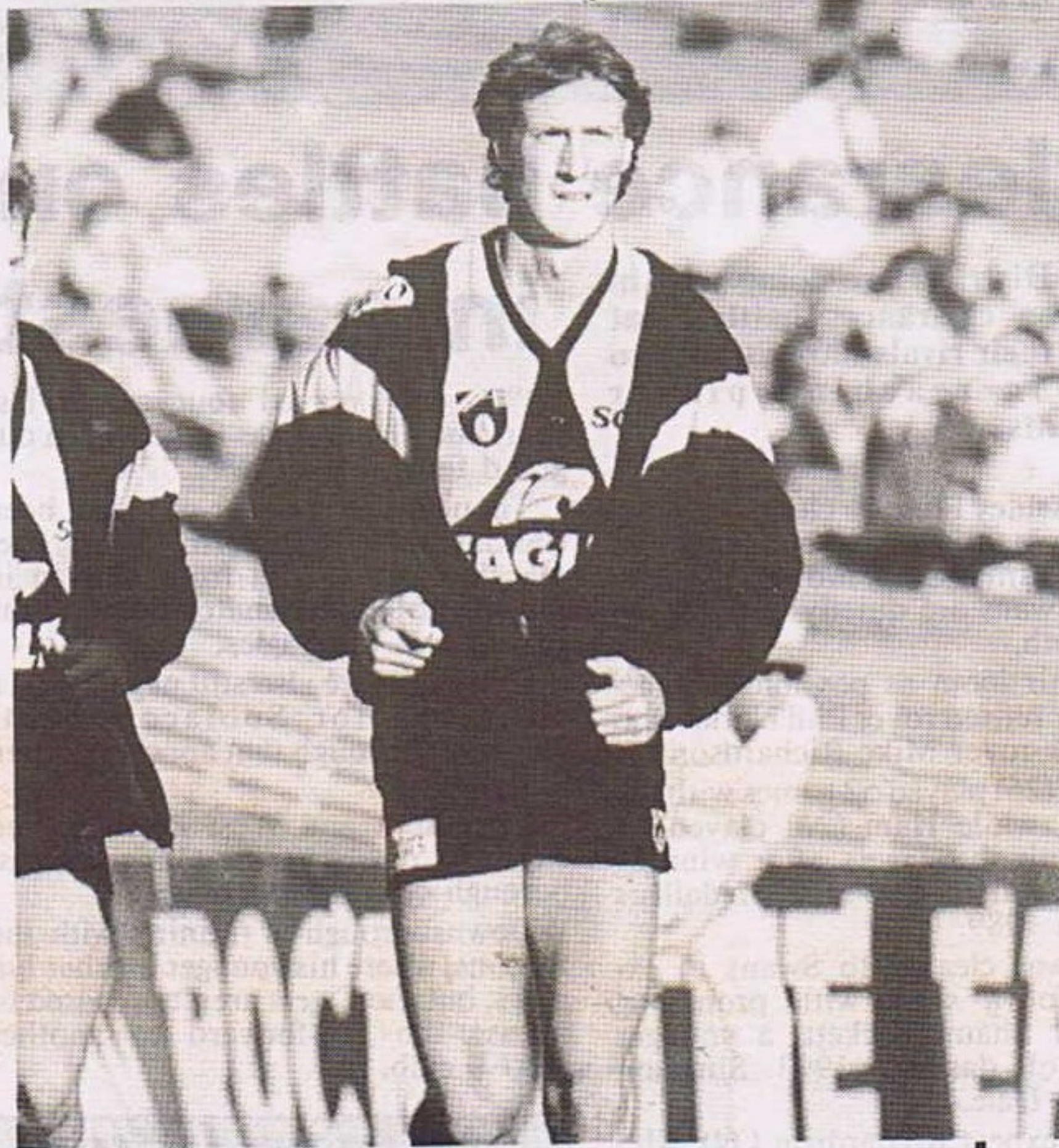


SCOTT GOOCH

A prime target for next month's March draft, Scott Gooch was chosen as a supplementary Eagle without playing a league game for Subiaco.

A tall and talented 18-year-old, Gooch led the Lions reserves ruck last season after playing most of his junior football in key forward positions.

He marked strongly against Subiaco playing for the Eagles B-side and is a draft candidate with the Eagles, Melbourne or Richmond.



LEE WALKER

The pre-season form of Lee Walker has been remarkable when considered that the talented youngster used to find it hard to complete a full game.

Few things are written about Walker without referring to his horrific run with injuries, but the Eagles 1992 draft gamble is paying dividends at last.

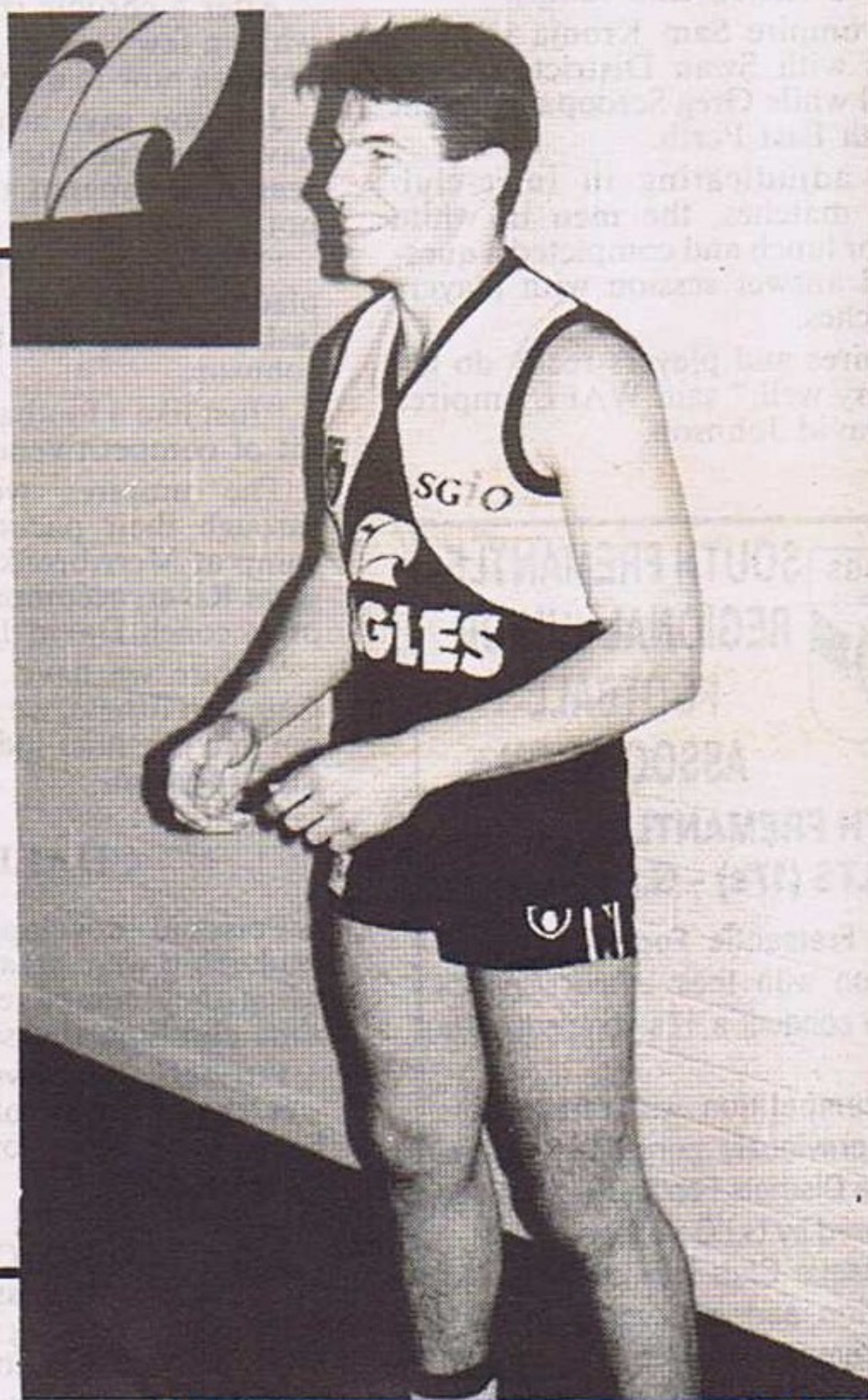
Outstanding at centre-half-back in three matches, the 198cm 21-year-old is gaining confidence with each outing.

DAVID SNOW

The Subiaco captain has been keen to play AFL football since debuting in 1990 and inclusion as an Eagles supplementary came as great news.

He knuckled down for his hardest pre-season yet and dedicated himself to the task with typical single-mindedness.

A gritty defender turned tagger, the 21-year-old starred for the Lions as an attacking centreman in last season's finals series.



efuls this squad and

re-season eagle when

Eagles are aches.

MEETING PLACE

YS & SATURDAYS -

CLUB

RUMOURS

418 MURRAY ST, PERTH

The Narkle sparkle

THE decision of Phil Narkle to retire was an inevitable one after some frustrating months trying to beat off injury — and his absence will certainly be missed.

There have been few more sparkling and magical players than the man they dubbed Mr Magic and his electrifying ball handling skills and deft footwork made him one of game's most skilful competitors.

He retires with 178 Swan Districts games behind him — and, ironically, 178 goals for the Bassendean boys.

INJURY WOES

In addition, he notched 48 games in an injury-plagued stint with St Kilda and another 18 games with the West Coast Eagles on his return to Perth in 1988.

A Medallists Medal (colts fairest and best) in 1977, a Sandover Medal in 1982, four State games, three premierships with Swans (1982-83-90) and two club fairest and best awards a decade apart — 1981 and '91 — stand as testimony to a great player.

will be missed

By ALAN EAST

Former Swans general manager Stan Moses was the man who recruited Narkle from Bunbury back in 1970 and sat him on the bench for the fourths side — as a nine-year-old to avoid the upcoming zoning, which, ironically, gave Swans the South West region anyway.

Moses recalls the reason behind Narkle donning guernsey No. 36 — an unusually high number for league players back in the 1970s.

"We had always tried to give new players the same numbers as their father or brother when there was a family connection," said Moses this week.

"But his brother Keith was already at the club and held in high esteem, firmly established in No. 9, so we gave Phil 36 as the numbers that added up to nine."

Umpire numbers boost for WAFL

By TANIA ARMSTRONG

LOCAL umpires have been working hard at improving their rapport with coaches and players throughout pre-season.

In an attempt to break down barriers between the two parties, clubs have been invited to attend umpire training at Ernest Johnson Reserve while umpires have visited club camps.

Field umpire Sam Kronja went to Baldivis with Swan Districts on the weekend while Greg Scroop also spent time with East Perth.

After adjudicating in intra-club practice matches, the men in white stayed for lunch and completed a question and answer session with players and coaches.

"Umpires and players really do get along very well," said WAFL umpires coach David Johnson.

"We've invited clubs to train with us and stay for a drink because it always seems that they are inviting us to drinks after a match and we never reciprocate."

After a chronic shortage of men-in-white a few seasons ago, umpire numbers are now in a healthy state in WA.

Johnson says around 120 umpires have been on the track during pre-season, compared to half that figure not so long ago.

"That creates more competition for places and guys who got league games last year may not this season," says Johnson.

"Just like a football club, it creates a bit of competitiveness."

The umpires were recently put through their paces with a weekend camp at Merribrook, down near Margaret River, accompanied by AFL umpires coach David Levens.

"While we have normally concentrated on fitness, we often cop flack for not having man-management skills," said Johnson.

CHALLENGE

Personal development and group leadership were areas concentrated on when they completed the challenging rope climbing course.

Further good news for WA umpires was the selection of Trevor Garrett, Scroop and Kronja on the Foster's Cup panel.

Garrett umpired the competition opener between Collingwood and North Melbourne last Saturday, while Scroop's first outing will be this week's clash between Carlton and Hawthorn.

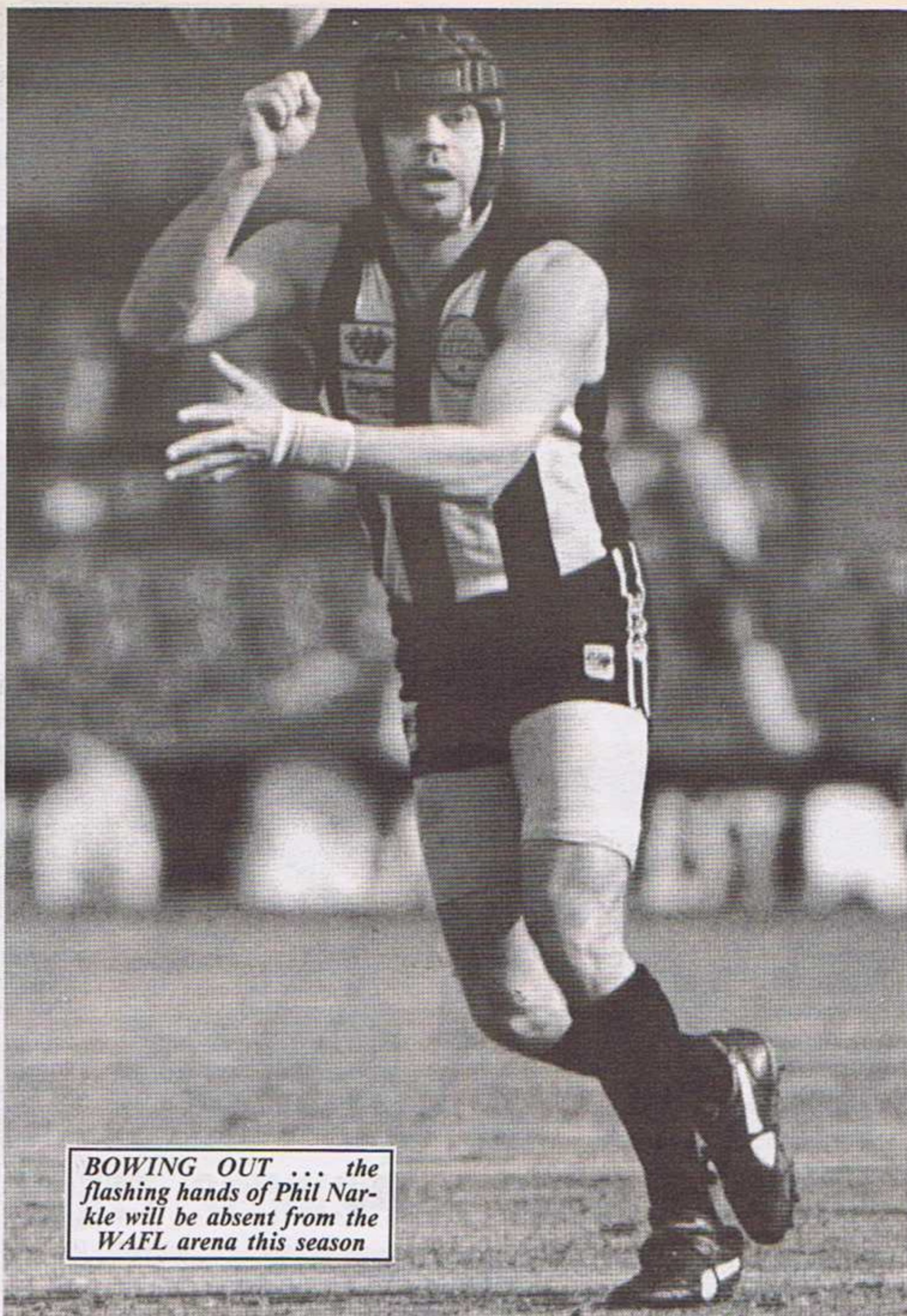
Kronja's appointment is pending poor form or injury to fellow umpires.

Subiaco much older

IF Subiaco celebrate their centenary in 1999 — as we reported in our last issue — they will be three years too late, according to Curtin University sports historian Steve Errington.

Dr Errington was surprised to read that the club was formed in 1899.

"Subiaco Football Club was formed in 1896 and had even won a premiership before 1899," he says.



BOWING OUT ... the flashing hands of Phil Narkle will be absent from the WAFL arena this season

Clearance battles on in earnest

SWAN Districts are doing well in pre-season clearances battles, but some of their rivals haven't been so lucky in reaching player agreements.

With Ashley Flugge's clearance from South Fremantle almost complete and David Ham (Claremont) already signed, Swans are quietly building on their depth.

The pair loom as possible replacements for retired rover Phil Narkle and axed ruck-rover Mike Richardson.

Flugge (26) played 52 games with the Bulldogs, while Ham (22) played 12 games with the Tigers after winning the colts fairest-and-best Medallists Medal in 1989.

Ham was cleared to Swans in exchange for a swap with promising youngster Shaun Kickett, a younger brother of dashing 1993 Simpson Medallist Dale.

Swans expect Richardson (34), who is nine games short of club life membership and just three away from the 300-game mark, to lodge a clearance application when he returns from an overseas business trip in a fortnight.

BULLDOGS FIRM

While Swans were eager to accept the Bulldogs clearance price for Flugge, East Perth aren't quite so happy with a similar price for Paul Mazurek.

"We put Paul (Mazurek) on a par with Flugge," says Bulldogs football manager Mark Bayliss.

"He only played four games last year, but when he was fit he was in our grand final side in 1992."

Though the 24-year-old has been training with East Perth, South Fremantle stopped him from playing in the recent practice match between the Royals and the Eagles.

East Perth are also still negotiating a clearance for Subiaco's Scott Kettlewell, though that appears certain to be passed.

Claremont and West Perth are no closer to resolving the Craig Downsborough clearance wrangle.

Downsborough is training with the Falcons, where his younger brother Ian plays, but the Tigers aren't prepared to release the full-forward to another WAFL club.

SITUATIONS VACANT 1994 coaching positions

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BULLDOGS SOUTH FREMANTLE REGIONAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SOUTH FREMANTLE JUNIOR COLTS (17's) - G.I.O. CUP

South Fremantle Football Club in association with their Junior Council intend to conduct a 17's competition in 1994.

This competition will replace the fixtures previously controlled by the Fremantle Districts Football League and is sponsored by G.I.O. Australia.

The League Club fully supports this competition and it is intended that players competing will be exposed to players and facilities of the "Bulldogs" during the season.

Any player interested in playing in this competition can contact their local club on the following phone numbers.

LAKES	417 3665 or 417 4951
ROCKINGHAM	593 1583 or 593 2848
FREMANTLE HAWKS	417 5014 or 018 950 907
SOUTH COOGEE	410 2215 or 418 6454
COCKBURN	434 2385 or 418 4845
KWINANA	419 3115 or 419 1627
WARNBRO	593 1647 or 593 2282
NORTH	458 9877(W)
FREMANTLE	OR 331 1870(H)

Stepping into a coaching hot seat

FORMER Claremont captain Tony Beers has been appointed coach of the North Fremantle Amateur Football Club on their return to A-grade competition.

He takes on the role of boosting Fremantle amateur football into a solid position in A-grade — a challenge that, in the past, has been a sure "death seat" for the aspirants.

North Fremantle,

known as the Mighty Maggies, are one of the oldest amateur clubs in existence — they celebrate their 75th anniversary next season — but haven't won an A-grade flag since their undefeated side of 1960.

In those 34 years, the club has ridden the roller coaster — a lower grade win earning promotion to A-grade, followed by a dismal year on the bottom of the ladder and demotion again.

Only Mark Watson,

the current coach of South Fremantle, has tasted much success, winning a string of games when he took over the club mid-season in 1992, when they were on the bottom of the A-grade ladder with only one win.

So Beers steps into an agonising position, aggravated by the fact that the hierarchy at North Fremantle had to overlook their premierships-winning B-grade coach, Wayne Langborne, to give the job to Beers.

As Beers says: "Any footballer wanting a real challenge, then we want you. Here's a chance to create a bit of history and still compete in a top competition, so give me a call or telephone our secretary, Simon Melville, on 319 1477 and we'll take you on."

In this special interview for Westside Football, Beers expands on his thoughts about the change-over to amateur football, and his commitment to North Fremantle.

With your appointment at North Fremantle, you join a long list of former WAFL players who have accepted coaching positions in the amateur competition. What is the attraction over other leagues?

In my opinion, it's the best standard of competition outside the WAFL — look, for instance, at players such as Drew Banfield, who have gone onto the WAFL and the AFL after getting their grounding in the amateurs. I, myself, came up through the Melbourne amateur competition which was also very strong.

Some people like one-time West Coast coach Ken Judge have gone on to higher levels after coaching in the amateur league — is this an ambition of yours?

No, not in the near future. These days league coaching is a full time job that requires a huge commitment and my career (with Reebok) wouldn't allow me to devote the time necessary to make it a success.

Bearing in mind you've played with and under some of the most successful coaches of recent years, what will you bring to North Fremantle this year?

You are aware of how successful Claremont have been in recent years under Gerard Neesham and I will be endeavouring to adapt the professionalism of the Tigers programme and team pattern to North Fremantle.

North Fremantle have been a very successful B-grade side over the last decade (four premierships) but have struggled at the elite A-grade level. Will you be able to make them competitive at this level and how will you manage it?

I hope so. We need to recruit — with 15 players left from last year's 20 is not enough and our goal is to pick up 8-10 good players. We'll try to maintain good contact with clubs like South Fremantle, especially with our connections through Mark Watson.

Will you be emphasising a youth policy or will you be recruiting experienced WAFL players?

A balance of both. Players such as Greg Egan (20), Scott Misich (18) and Damien Clancy (19) all tasted success at senior level last year and this young talent must continue to be nurtured. But we could also use some experienced players.

There seems to be a "power base" in the A-grade of clubs such as North Beach, University, Wembley and Mt Lawley. How do you plan to combat them and erode their dominance of recent years?

I don't think we can erode it, but we would like to join this elite. With the strength of football in the Fremantle area (two WAFL sides and soon an AFL team) I see no reason why there shouldn't be a successful and established A-grade club in the district.

How does an amateur club, such as North Fremantle, stack up against Claremont in terms of strength, facilities, administration and "football system"?

When I was interviewed for the position at North Fremantle, I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the president and the football committee. They are sick and tired of this "yo-yo" effect where they constantly switch between A and B grade and positive moves are in place so that North Fremantle may become an established A-grade club.

You were recognised as a very good defender in your WAFL career and, bearing in mind Norths apparent lack of experienced players, is there any possibility that you will play in '94?

No. I've been out of the game too long. In any case, I was appointed as coach and that's where I will devote



PERMANENT . . . a brief one-year visit to the West has resulted in a long-term stay for former Collingwood player and Claremont captain Tony Beers — and now he's taking on another challenge as coach of inconsistent amateurs club, North Fremantle

my energies. I don't feel I could do justice to the job with having to concentrate on playing as well.

How is the team shaping up so far?

It's too early to tell. We've only been training a month, but I'm hopeful.

What do you see as the keys to North Fremantle's success this year?

Obviously there needs to be general improvement with the lift from B-grade to A-grade. The younger guys need to continue their development and take more

HUNGRY JACK'S

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Talking footy

with **SEAN CONNOLLY**

Tigers star is enticed out of retirement

Tony Beers in profile

Born 7/11/62 in Melbourne

Junior Football Club: Old Paradians Amateurs.

Played with Collingwood from 1979-'84 under coaches Tom Hafey, Mick Irwin and John Cahill and with players such as Peter Moore, Bill Picken, Stan Magro and John Annear.

Joined Claremont (supposedly for only one year) in 1984 and stayed until 1991 under coaches Graham Moss and Gerard Neesham. Played in the premierships sides of 1987 and '89, captained the '88 team and also represented WA that year.

Has had little to do with football since his retirement in 1991, preferring to work instead on his golf handicap and concentrate on his career as sales manager with Reebok.

responsibility and a more senior role. The experienced players need to continue supporting this development.

As a rookie coach at the helm of a club that most critics suggest will be tough going, what do you see as your major problems or obstacles?

I need numbers at training so I can get everyone together to learn the system. To do that I need to keep training interesting and enjoyable. It's a little strange for me, coming from clubs where football was your No. 1 priority, to come to an amateur club where a player needs to balance his work and family commitments with football.

What would you consider a satisfactory finish for North Fremantle in '94?

It's very hard to get a guide after only one month's training and not having played any practice matches. We've got practice games coming up against West Coast and University and they should be good guides as to where we're at.

What are your goals for North Fremantle for '94 and beyond?

In all honesty, it's unrealistic to expect a premiership in the first year — or maybe even a finals berth. I'm looking for us to avoid relegation; to stay in A-grade and keep building our strength from there.

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Presents



Thinking aloud



A column of news and views by ALAN EAST

Contrasting thoughts on rule changes

Bank invasion adds to WA's dominance

FIRST it was our footballers and then our coaches, followed by some administrators and the occasional good idea, such as the 50-metre line.

Then it was a team in the shape of the Eagles — and now it's our financial wizards, with WA's Challenge Bank kicking their name into the national league.

We're talking about the general invasion of the Victorian football arena over recent decades and the latest sponsorship coup, with Challenge Bank getting their name and logos on the footballs to be used in all AFL matches this year.

While the fore-runner of the Challenge Bank was WA's Perth Building Society — a financial institution dating back to 1862 — the new name was formed as part of a merger with Victoria's Hotham Building Society.

Challenge Bank have forked out \$300,000 for the right to have their name kicked around for more than 40,000 minutes over the winter months — 15 teams, playing 22 matches, plus finals!



PUNTING LEATHER... Adrian Barich and Ross Glendinning show off the new-look footballs that should help to kick a WA business into national prominence

The widespread appeal of the national league obviously tempted Challenge Bank into the marketplace, especially after the enormous publicity the McDonald's food chain received last year when they dubbed their Big M logo on the footy for the finals.

Challenge already has a foot in the Victorian door with 21 branches and 14 agencies across the border, plus offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide.

The AFL have naturally welcomed the sponsorship — after all, \$300,000

is a nice earner when you're giving nothing away except a little bit of paint — and chief executive Ross Oakley says that corporate support such as Challenge Bank's is fundamental to the league's ability to keep admission prices down.

"This year it will cost \$11 for an adult to attend a game," he says. "But it will cost the competition \$27 per head to stage those games."

Challenge Bank's managing director Tony Howarth says that the sponsorship is a significant element in their marketing strategy, especially in the Eastern States.

"The widespread appeal of Australian Rules football reflects the Bank's target market," he says.

THE old and the new were really at it on 6PR's Saturday morning show as a host of rule changes and suggestions were discussed.

Keith Slater, one of the game's surviving dinosaurs with his staunch defence of traditionalism, was under a barrage from callers who want to see changes to the sport.

Suggestions like nine points for a long shot at goal; eight points for hitting the post; a goal even if the ball hit the goal post on the way through; a rugby-type bar across the goal posts giving different scores above and below... and so on.

UMPIRE THOUGHTS

Then there were the umpire suggestions — three or even four field umpires to keep the game moving; four boundary umpires to speed up the play; goal umpires allowed to get more involved in the action...

Slater was adamant that the game shouldn't be changed. He's a stickler for the unique aspect of Aussie Rules and — quite rightly — suggested that if we keep changing the rules we'll end up with a hockey or rugby type presentation.

The one change that just about everybody agreed with was Mick Malthouse's ideal of more interchange players — up to six men allowed to sit on the bench.

But isn't that copying American grid-iron, where they almost have a second-string side on the bench ready to swing into action when needed?



PRESENTS

What's happening in sport

Cricket

Sheffield Shield: February 24-27: WA v Tasmania, WACA Ground.
Mercantile Mutual Cup: Saturday, March 5, qualifying final South Australia v Western Australia, Adelaide Oval; winner versus NSW at Sydney, March 12

Golf

Saturday, March 12: Opening day at golf clubs

Horse racing

Ascot: February 26 — \$150,000 Karrakatta Plate
March 5 — \$40,000 Hyperion Stakes

Lawn bowls

March 4 — Matthews Trophy, Sumpton Cup
March 5-12 — Country Week

Speedway

Claremont: March 4 — WA Sprintcar championship.

Surf life saving

February 27: State board riding championships, Trigg; Coca-Cola surf boat final, Scarborough
March 5-6: State senior championships, Trigg

Trotting

Gloucester Park: February 25: \$20,000 Mount Eden Sprint
March 4: \$20,000 Country Pacing Derby

Tennis

March 5-7: Long weekend tournaments at various country centres

Yachting

February 26-27: State Hart/TS16 championship heats, Mounts Bay
February 27: Heron State Championship heat, Maylands

Ground options open up

WHILE the proposed Fremantle team is aiming to have its offices up and running in the Port within a couple of months, the question of a home ground for training isn't all that cut and dried.

The choice of South Fremantle's home ground, Fremantle Oval, seems a logical base, but there are other sites under examination — and East Fremantle haven't ruled their oval out of contention.

Plus there are a couple of other candidates in the field — such as the Gilbert Fraser Oval, the home of the North Fremantle Amateur Football Club and one of the best-equipped grounds outside the WAFL arena — and even HMAS Leeuwin, where the facilities, on and off the field, are first class.

The naval base is situated on the river at East Fremantle and has often been used by football clubs as a training camp.

The interim board's ad-

ministrative officer, David Hatt, is currently working out of the WA Football Commission's Subiaco offices, but he is keen to set up a Fremantle office.

Meetings are being scheduled with South Fremantle and East Fremantle and the various local authorities to find out where best the club's administration should be based.

But an operating office in the centre of Fremantle should be open for business early into this season.

Win a footy

YOU can be a trendsetter in your street by being one of the first to kick the new-look AFL football around — complete with the Challenge Bank name and logo.

Courtesy of Challenge Bank, Westside has two footballs to give away in this edition's competition.

Simply answer this easy question:

Who was the AFL player to kick the football through the goals more than anyone else last season?

Send your answer on the back of an envelope, along with your name and address, to:-

Challenge Bank Quiz, Westside Football, PO Box 119, Northbridge, WA 6865. Entries close Friday, March 4.

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YOUR LOCAL PAINT PLACE

MICK Malthouse and his entourage created football headlines in 1991 with his team of "ruck rovers".

Opposition coaches and critics said the Eagles, who won a club record 12 consecutive matches, had created a landmark in football with their impressive array of super-fit running players.

One player who was expected to join that highly-regarded group was prolific Subiaco possession-getter Matt Connell.

The lightly-built midfielder, who was selected by the Eagles in the 1991 draft, dominated at WAFL level and was tipped to have little trouble adjusting to the step up in tempo and intensity that the AFL arena offers.

But that has not been the case.

In all fairness, Connell's first year with the Eagles was unfortunate, to say the least.

He turned in some sensational games for Subiaco and represented Western Australia in the interstate arena.

MYSTERY ILLNESS

However, when an appearance with the State's glamour side beckoned, Connell was struck down by a mystery blood disorder, which curtailed his stamina and, ultimately, his effectiveness.

Last year, Connell enjoyed an injury-free run and was rewarded with se-

Connell needs to run into some hot form

lection in West Coast's opening two matches, against eventual premiers Essendon at Subiaco Oval and Adelaide at Football Park.

But he lost his place in the team after the Eagles loss to the Crows and played only one more game for the season, against St Kilda at Waverley Park.

It is now time for Connell to make that step-up and reward the faith shown in him by the match committee.

His task isn't an easy one, with the return of 1991 Brownlow Medal runner-up Craig Turley and the encouraging practice match form of young South Australian pair Shane Bond and Brayden Lyle, adding to the fierce competition for spots.

There is a school of thought that Connell's domination of WAFL ranks has hindered his progress at the next level.

He has a habit of hanging on to the ball for long periods, perhaps too long and handballing indirectly or "around corners".

These are flaws in his play which must be corrected if he is to become a regular AFL player.

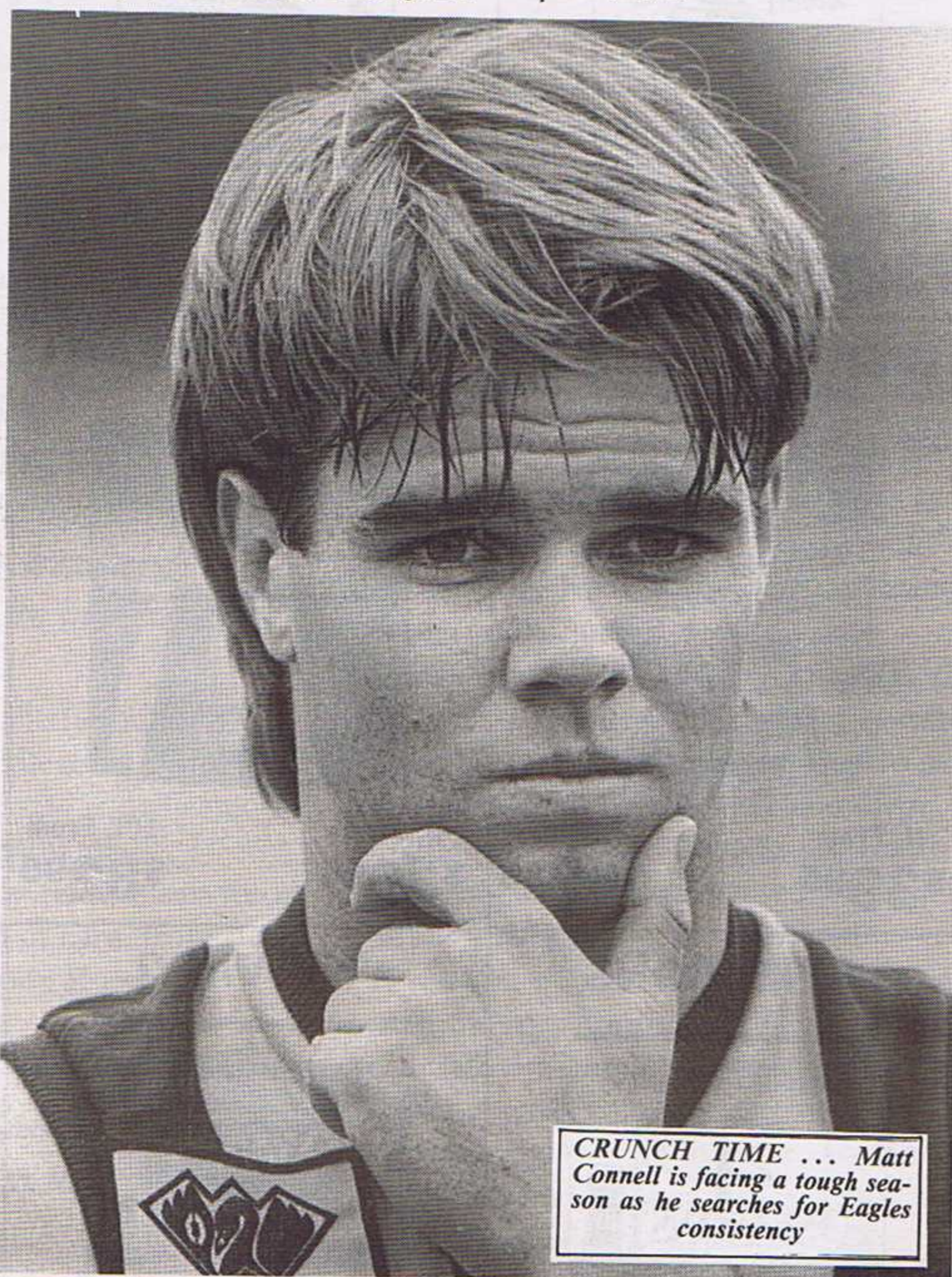
Connell is no John Worsfold or Chris Mainwaring in terms of physique, but he is the strongest he has been in his career and is more prepared for the physical element of the game.

DIGBY BEACHAM looks at a footballer whose career is in the balance



Fortunately for Connell, he is still only 21 years of age and still has plenty to offer the Eagles.

If he can maintain his high work-rate ethic, he should add to his tally of three matches and prove he is not just a good WAFL player.



CRUNCH TIME ... Matt Connell is facing a tough season as he searches for Eagles consistency

We're back weekly on March 10

East Coast Chatter

Tiger dozen

RICHMOND will present one of the newest line-ups among the AFL clubs after an intensive summer of recruiting.

The Tigers have added 12 recruits to their list, benefitting from the draft concessions given to the club that finished second-last in season 1993 — with four of the newcomers switching from strife-torn Fitzroy.

Those new Tigers with previous AFL ties are: Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas, Michael Gale and Paul Broderick (Fitzroy); Greg Dear (Hawthorn) and Mark Neeld (Geelong).

Heading the list of interstate aspirants are WA duo Mark Merenda (West Perth) and Stephen Jurica (South Fremantle); Matthew Rogers (South Adelaide) and Jamie Tape (Woodville-West Torrens).

'Roo targets

NORTH Melbourne coach Denis Pagan might have been a little devastated at losing their Foster's Cup clash to Collingwood on the siren, but it doesn't put him off his 1994 campaign.

The miracle-working-coach of 1993 aims to have his Roos faster and stronger this season — and that's the lesson he learnt from last year's elimination final against West Coast.

Pagan says that his team were fatigued by the end of the season and simply got pushed off the ball too easily by the stronger Eagles.

To help provide that boost in strength and speed, Pagan paid a visit to Canberra's Institute of Sport, where he sought out some of the nation's most specialised sporting coaches to help with advice.

Freo candidate

FREMANTLE could well be sending one of their talent scouts across the border to talk to talented South Australian Scott Hodges.

The 26-year-old looks likely to be dropped off the Adelaide Crows list after declaring that he just wants to play with his SANFL club, Port Adelaide this year.

The emergence of Tony Modra at full-forward in the Crows side last season squeezed the State player out of the Adelaide camp — and if he is lopped off the list, he could well look at a 1995 revival of his AFL career.

Brotherly link

FOOTBALL could see yet another set of brothers in action this season, with Anthony Harvey joining his more-illustrious family member Robert at St Kilda.

The 20-year-old Anthony played 14 games in St Kilda's VSFL side last season after coming from Frankston.

His solid form in pre-season games gives him the chance to grad a midfield or on-ball spot and even though Robert is sidelined with a groin injury at present, it seems inevitable that the duo could line up alongside each other.

Crow recruits

THERE will be a strong South Australian influence at Geelong this year, judging by the pre-season form shown by some new recruits.

Norwood duo Grant Fanner and Christian O'Brien and Woodville's Shane Breuer have all been impressive in the summer campaign.

Cats officials have been pleased with the remarkable recovery of star defender Ken Hinkley, who damaged a knee pre-season and was expected to miss at least four weeks.

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Kicking around the clubs

Hodyl moves

FORMER Swan Districts captain Peter Hodyl has departed from the Kalamunda coaching post after one season at the helm of the Sunday League club.

Hodyl makes way for former East Perth and Perth player John McGuire.

Another former WAFL skipper in Craig McGrath, who had stints with East Perth and Perth after being recruited from Fitzroy by the Eagles, has stepped into the coaching role with Quairading, in the Avon Association.

Former East Perth, Claremont and Eagles big man Peter Melesso takes up the coaching post with Wagin, in the Upper Great Southern.

Back home

BIG Claremont ruckman Adam Clark has left the WAFL scene to play amateur football with Wembley.

Clark (27) played 50 games in three seasons with the Tigers on top of five games with his first club, East Perth, after originally hailing from Wembley.

He had talks with East Perth before Christmas about the possibility of a return to the club and though the Royals were keen to have him back, he has opted for amateur football.

Season over

PROMISING Swan Districts youngster Chris Waddingham's season is over before it has started after he broke a leg in a recent intraclub match.

Waddingham (19) is yet to make his league debut and many believed he had a chance of cracking it this season. But that is now out of the question after breaking both bones in a lower leg.

He played 17 reserves matches last season after progressing from the colts.

Demons coup

PERTH have beaten East Fremantle to the services of talented 17-year-old Troy Cook.

A Teal Cup ruck-rover last season, Cook hails from St Pats, in Geraldton, an area largely tied to East Fremantle.

However, his address was in un-allotted territory and his parents reside in Perth's zone of Kelmscott.

Flying home

ALL but one of Perth's Darwin explorers have returned to the club in time for this weekend's Emu Export series.

Toby Jackson, Robert Stephan and Grant Keyser are back with the Demons after spending a season in the NTFL with Nightcliff.

Nathan Mourish will miss the opening Emu Export matches as his side, North Darwin, are certain to play in the finals.

Mourish, who played two games with Perth on debut last season, has been a star of the competition over summer and the Demons are hoping his form continues in the WAFL.

VFA call-up

FORMER Eagles and Richmond rover Trent Nichols has reportedly rejected offers to return to East Fremantle after accepting a coaching role with Frankston in the VFA.

Nichols, delisted by the Eagles after a disappointing four games in two seasons, has been appointed assistant coach of Frankston.

The 24-year-old returned to his home state of Victoria before Christmas and was initially training with St Kilda in the hope of an AFL call-up in March.

Back again

FORMER Perth and Subiaco footballer Gary Armstrong has returned to the amateur coaching post at Scarborough after a season with Armadale in the Sunday League.

Armstrong took Scarborough to the finals in his two seasons at the helm in 1991-92 before Warren Dean led the side last season.

Dean has been enticed to continue his playing career with rival club Wembley, coached by Murray Rance.

Footy feelings in fine

verse

FOOTBALL poetry seems to be the in-thing at the moment and here's another contribution.

Lathlain lady Sandy Barrett penned the following poem as part of a literary workshop and sent it on to the WA Football Commission in the hope that some-one might like it.

The poem was then handballed to Westside and we're happy to give Mrs Barrett her wish... after all, it does sum up the game pretty well.

FOOTBALL is a tradition
It's pure Aussie and true blue,
It's been around for years
And it's there for me and you.

At the start of the season
People's lives begin to change,
Saturdays are ever sacred
And their habits become strange.

Their clothes are uniform
Coloured beanies and scarves,
With rugs and thermos flasks
To the ovals they converge.

Some even paint their faces
In the colours of their team,
They want the world to know
The heroes for whom they scream.

The noise is deafening
As forty men of steel
Run out onto the ground
Pure adrenalin they feel.

These men are strong and fit
And are not frightened to compete
To win is the main purpose
When they pull the boots on their feet.

There's handballs, punts and shepherds
It's a game of special skills
Of overhead marks and spoils
And never ending thrills.

Only one team will be victorious
When that final siren sounds
And there's no place for losers
As defeated they leave the ground.

The winners will be jubilant
With their heads held high
The coach thankful and smiling
With his face towards the sky.

Last season is forgotten
And after a few weeks rest
Pre-season training commenced
For this year's gruelling test.

We've made it through summer
As we have done before
And look forward with excitement
For the first bounce in '94.

— Sandy Barrett

Freo loses a stalwart

Mr North Fremantle



LAURIE TETLEY

A FREMANTLE football era ended with the death of Laurie Tetley at the age of 73.

A younger brother of former West Perth and WA champion, Max Tetley, Laurie played football for East Fremantle and South Melbourne before compiling 151 games with the North Fremantle amateurs.

Laurie gave 49 consecutive years of service to the North Fremantle Amateur Football Club and held every position possible — from player to president and patron.

He was honoured by the Australian National Football League for his services to football and also had the main gates to Gilbert Fraser Reserve named after him.

He was a generous donor of trophies to amateur football at all levels of the game.

About 500 people attended his funeral at Karakatta Cemetery, including some of the big names of Fremantle football.

Laurie was born in 1921, the same year that the NFAFC was formed after unsuccessful attempts to get the club re-admitted to the WA Football League.

It was Laurie's ambition to have North Fremantle win an A-grade flag, a result that has eluded the club since it went through the 1960 season undefeated.

What's on at your club

CLAREMONT

Training at Claremont Oval, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 6pm.

EAST PERTH

Training at Perth Oval, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 5.30pm. Past Players room open Wednesdays for sausage sizzle.

East Fremantle

Saturday, March 12: Sharks Emu Export Race Night at the club, \$1 entry for race guide.

Sunday, March 27: Guernsey presentation and family fun day at the Swan Brewery. Training Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, East Fremantle Oval, 5.30pm.

PERTH

Training Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Lathlain Park, 5.15pm.

Sunday, March 27: Jumper presentation.

South Fremantle

High Roller bingo, third Tuesday of each month, tickets \$18. Normal bingo every Tuesday, \$10. Daytime bingo, Mondays, 12.30pm.

Training Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Murdoch University, 5.30pm.

SUBIACO

Training Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Subiaco Oval, 5pm. Bar open for Thursday meals.

Swan Districts

Friday, March 11: Col Elliot Show, 7.30pm, tickets \$20. Come and meet the players, Wednesday after training. Lockerroom restaurant open Saturdays, 6.30-8.30pm.

Training Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Bassendean Oval, 5.30pm.

WEST PERTH

Saturday, March 19: Troupadores at Vasto Club, Wanneroo. Tickets \$20, light supper. Saturday, March 26: Guernsey presentation and player auction.

Training Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Joondalup, 5.30pm.

West Coast Eagles

Wednesday, March 30: Sausage Sizzle at training. Supporter's Club bar open every afternoon. Watch training in comfort on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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A La Carte Menu
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Italian Banquet
8 Dish Banquet
4 people or more
Booking Essential \$22⁰⁰



ELUSIVE ... Ricky Grace shows his classic style

THE Perth Wildcats have had many international players at the club, but few with the ability to excite crowds like Ricky Grace.

Grace's innovative moves make him one of the most feared guards in the competition and he was recently rewarded with an invitation to try out for a team in the United States.

Grace (27) is now back with the Wildcats and is certain to be a major trump card for the Perth team in '94.

No.	Name	Position	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	D.O.B.	Place of Birth
4	Eric Watterson	Guard	185	84	30.6.64	Perth
7	James Crawford	Fwd/Ctr	203	97	13.4.60	Alabama, USA
8	Chris Carroll	Guard	193	90	17.3.72	Brisbane
9	Martin Cattalini	Forward	202	94	4.10.73	Fremantle
10	Trevor Torrance	Grd/Fwd	198	95	18.8.68	Perth
13	Aaron Trahair	Guard	194	90	3.2.76	Bendigo
15	Ricky Grace	Guard	185	79	20.8.66	Dallas, USA
21	Andrew Vlahov	Forward	200	103	1.4.69	Perth
30	Scott Fisher	Forward	201	107	20.7.63	San Jose, USA
34	Jamie Baker	Grd/Fwd	198	90	15.3.74	Perth, USA
41	Calvin Bruton, Jr	Guard	188	70	13.12.75	Wichita, Kansas USA

Skipper Vlahov leaps into superstar status

FROM Rookie-of-the-Year to superstar status in just three years is the path that Andrew Vlahov has taken in the National Basketball League since his 1991 debut.

After starting with the Perth Juniors, Vlahov (24) has played for his State and country at every opportunity, representing Australia in the Olympic Games in 1988 and 1992.

Vlahov offers advice to juniors that they "don't ever stop trying to improve" as he looks back to his early days of basketball, playing alongside close friend Luc Longley, now with the Minnesota Timberwolves, in the USA.

The two giants — now playing on opposite sides of the globe — grew up together as best friends, playing with the Perth Redbacks and are undoubtedly the best basketballers produced in this State.

The kids love 'em

SUPPORT for the Perth Wildcats from the young people of Western Australia is a booming industry.

Young people interested in more than just watching the Wildcats play are joining the Perth Wildcats Junior Supporters Club in increasing numbers each year.

Anyone under the age of 16 can get an application form from the Wildcats and become a member, where you are kept up to date with Wildcats news and you get a bag full of souvenirs and chances to win bigger prizes in monthly competitions.

The Wildcats also support young West Australians by holding junior development coaching clinics for the stars of the future.

Youngsters interested in getting involved in basketball clinics or the supporters club should contact the Wildcats on (09) 324 1844.

The Slammer

WHEN talking about superstars in the Perth Wildcat's den, you can't go past 'The Alabama Slammer', James Crawford.

Crawford came to Perth in 1987 after stints with Geelong (1981-85) and Canberra (1986), helping the Wildcats to the grand final that year and has since been awarded many NBL honours.

At 33 years of age Crawford still stuns the crowd and his opponents with his amazing acrobatic abilities and is a great inspiration for those playing alongside him.



BIG LEAP ... Andrew Vlahov has rocketed to the top of the basketball world from the local junior ranks



UP ABOVE ... James Crawford just loves floating above the pack for a big rebound

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Your 1994 Wildcats' fixtures

CUT OUT AND KEEP

WEEK 1
Thursday, April 7
North Melbourne Giants .. v Perth ..
Saturday, April 9
Canberra Cannons v Perth.....

WEEK 2
Saturday, April 16
Perth v Adelaide 36ers.....

WEEK 3
Thursday, 21 April
Perth... v North Melbourne Giants ...

WEEK 4
Friday, 29 April
Perth..... v Sydney Kings.....

WEEK 5
Saturday, May 7
Gold Coast Rollers v Perth

WEEK 6
Friday, May 13
Geelong Supercats v Perth

Saturday, May 14
Melbourne Tigers v Perth

WEEK 7
Saturday, May 21
Perth v Hobart Devils

WEEK 8
Saturday, May 28
Perth..... v Melbourne Magic

WEEK 9
Friday, June 3
Townsville Suns v Perth.....

Saturday, June 4
Brisbane Bullets v Perth.....

WEEK 10
Saturday, June 11
Perth v Canberra

WEEK 11
Friday, June 17
Hobart Devils v Perth

Saturday, June 18
SE Melbourne Magic v Perth

WEEK 12
Saturday, June 25
Perth v Illawarra Hawks

WEEK 13
Saturday, July 2
Perth v Townsville Suns

WEEK 14
Saturday, July 8
Newcastle Falcons v Perth

WEEK 15
Saturday, July 15
Perth v Geelong Supercats

WEEK 16
Saturday, July 23
Adelaide 36ers v Perth

ALL STAR BREAK
WEEK 17
Friday, August 19
Perth v Brisbane Bullets.....

WEEK 18
Saturday, August 27
Perth..... v Melbourne Tigers

WEEK 19
Saturday, September 3
Perth..... v Newcastle Falcons.....

WEEK 20
Friday, September 9
Illawarra Hawks v Perth.....

Saturday, September 10
Sydney Kings v Perth.....

WEEK 21
Saturday, September 17
Perth..... v Gold Coast Rollers

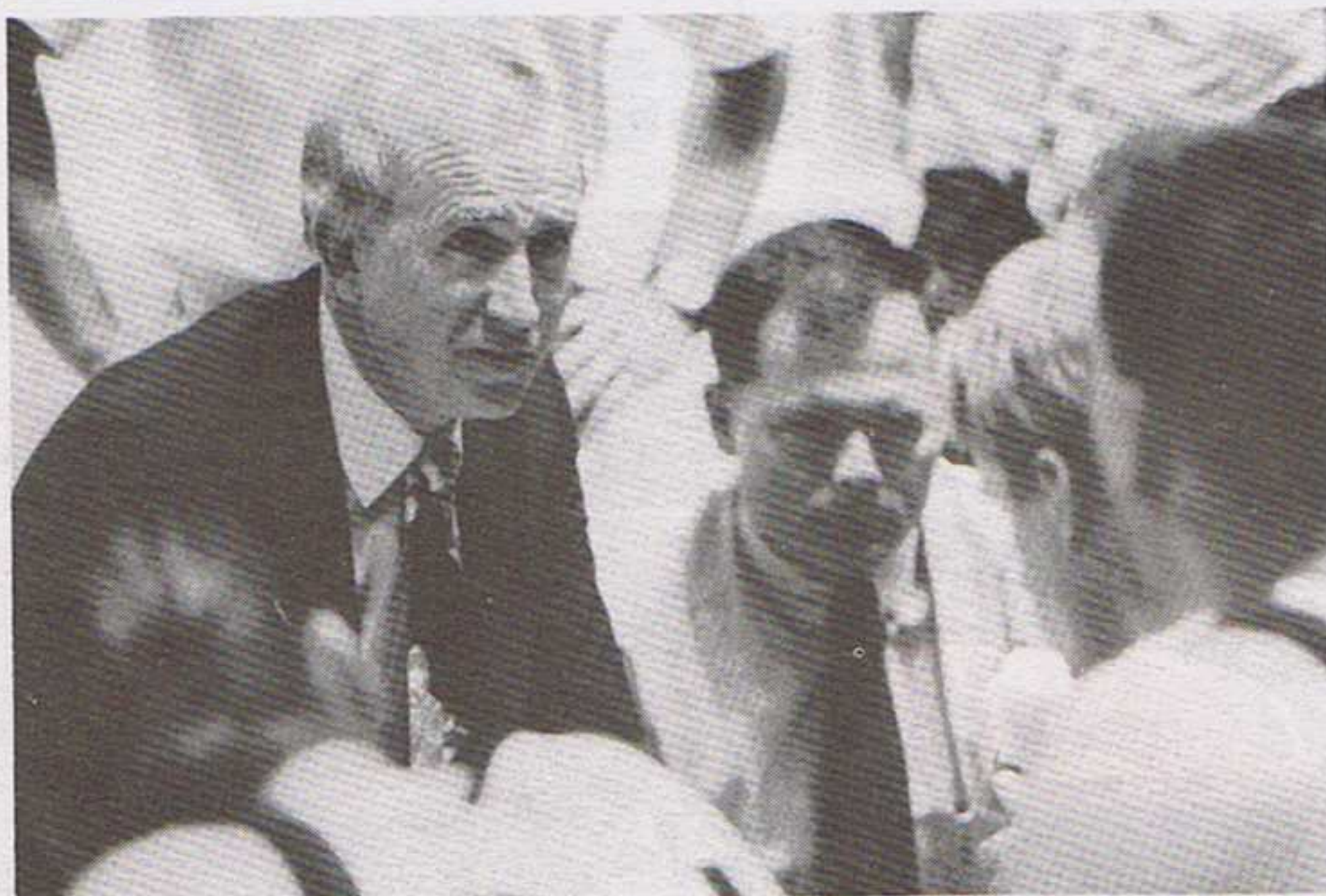
WEEK 22
Friday, September 23
BYE

FINALS SERIES
OCTOBER
Elimination Final
Semi-Finals
Grand Final



Getting the message

Wildcats coach Adrian Hurley has proved himself an excellent motivator and (above) he's in full cry as he punches home a point to the team. **BELOW:** His assistant Dave Hancock is right alongside at the break, always providing solid support



Coaching duo have the right credentials

THE Perth Wildcats have had a number of coaches since their inception in the NBL, but few have better qualifications than current coach, Adrian Hurley.

With a lot of success at the national level, Hurley has been assistant and head coach of the Australian team; head coach at the Australian Institute of Sport and also an Australian selector.

He has a lot to do with the development of many players currently in the NBL, including some of the present Wildcats.

Hurley had a good start with the Wildcats, even though they lost the 1993 grand final and he aims to go one better with a premiership in '94.

ASSISTANT

The name Dave Hancock has quickly become one of the most recognised in Australian basketball since his arrival in Perth from the United States.

Hancock (35) came from California in 1983 and coached the East Perth Eagles to the State League championships that year.

After winning the title again in 1986, this time with the Wanneroo Wolves, he took over coaching the Quit WAIS Breakers, claiming the national women's crown and Coach-of-the-Year honour in his three years at the helm.

He is better known now as assistant coach of the Perth Wildcats, where he has again tasted victory, being a part of their 1991-92 premiership wins.

Sometimes Saturdays get better when you follow the **WILDCATS!**
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